



Sports
ROHIT BIDS ADIEU
TO TEST
P.12



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EDITIONS: ▲ BHOPAL ▲ UJJAIN ▲ PUNE ▲ INDORE ▲ NASHIK ▲ MUMBAI ▲ E-paper

MONEY
Softer vegetable
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meal cost in Apr

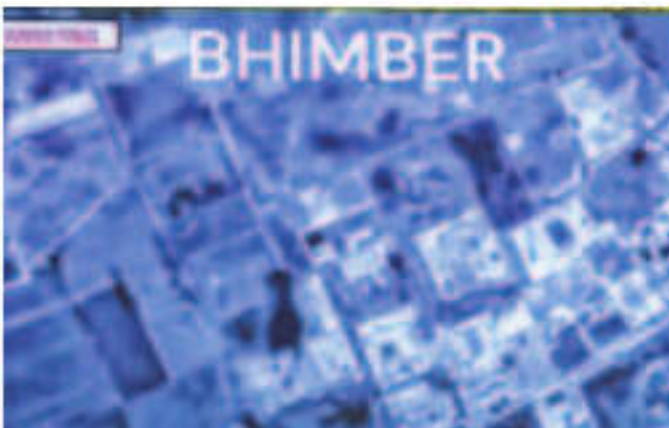
Edit Action, reaction & a lesson **P.6**

Cinema SRK's stylish thanks **P.14**



OPERATION SINDOOR 24 Strikes at 9 terror camps in Pok, Pakistan's Punjab hit, 70 terrorists killed

25 MINUTES OF FURY



Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar
NEW DELHI

Exactly a fortnight after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were identified on the basis of religion and killed by terrorist, India launched 'Operation Sindoor' early on Thursday morning hitting nine terrorist training camps and launchpads inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with 24 missile strikes.

The strikes, which took place within a span of 25 minutes, left a large number of suspected terrorists dead and injured at the nine locations at Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Bahawalpur, Rawalakot, Chakswari, Bhimber, Neelum Valley, Jhelum and Chakwa in Pakistan and as per unconfirmed reports around 70 terrorists were killed and another 60 injured.

Media reports from Pakistan also cited Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar claiming that 10 members of his family and four aides were killed in the attack at Bahawalpur. Besides JeM, the Indian armed forces had also targeted bases of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and the Lashkar-e-Taiba, whose offshoot, The Resistance Front, had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack.

The first of the strikes took place around 1 am. The Additional Director General of Public Information of Indian Army posted on "X" about it with

"#JusticeServed". It wrote that "Target 1" was Abbas Terrorist Camp at Kotli at a distance of 13 Km from LoC (POJK). Describing it as the "nerve centre for training suicide bombers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)", the Army said this centre that provided "key training infrastructure for over 50 terrorists" was destroyed at 1.04 am. At 1.44 am, the Ministry of Defence announced that the armed forces had launched Operation Sindoor hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK. It categorically stated that the actions were "focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature" and that "no Pakistani military facilities have been targeted." In a clear message that India did not desire escalation, the note had also stated that India "demonstrated considerable restraint in selection of targets and method of execution".

The MoD had also specified that a detailed press conference will be held at 10 am. In the morning, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed the media about Operation Sindoor. He said the Pahalgam attack was "driven by the objective of undermining normalcy returning to Kashmir" and "the family members were deliberately traumatised through the manner of killing, accompanied by the exhortation that they should take back the message."

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Women officers come to the fore

Two highly decorated women officers of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army were on Tuesday given the all-important role of briefing officers by the Centre for explaining the details of Operation Sindoor to the media.

By bringing forth the two officers India

also demonstrated that it would not let Pakistan sow any seeds of discord within its communities.

Both the officers picked for the briefing have an exemplary record. Colonel Sophia Qureshi is a decorated officer of the Corps of Signals and the first woman Army officer to lead a contingent in a multinational military exercise.

On the other hand, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh is a helicopter pilot who led several rescue missions. Since receiving permanent commission in the flying branch of Indian Air Force in 2019, she has operated Chetak and Cheetah helicopters in some of India's most challenging terrains in Jammu and Kashmir and the North East.

During the presentation, the two officers provided details of the nine targets that were hit and the reasons these were picked. The presentation showed how the missile strikes carried out with aircrafts and drones hit the terror infrastructure inside Pakistan and PoK.



Col Sofiya Qureshi

No military installations were targeted. The strikes were focused solely on infrastructure linked to cross-border terrorism



Wing Commander Vyomika Singh

18 airports shut, 200 flights grounded

More than 200 flights have been cancelled and at least 18 airports, including Srinagar, have been temporarily shut for operations amid restrictions in the wake of the armed forces launching missile attacks against Pakistan on Wednesday morning. According to the source, more than 200 flights to and from various airports have been cancelled by airlines, with IndiGo alone cancelling around 160 flights.

PM Modi briefs Prez

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met President Droupadi Murmu and briefed her on Indian armed forces' precision strikes at terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). "Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and briefed her about Operation Sindoor," the president's office said in a post on X and shared pictures of the meeting.



10 of Masood Azhar's family killed



J-e-M chief Maulana Masood Azhar acknowledged on Wednesday that 10 members of his family and four close associates were killed in India's missile attack on the outfit's headquarters in Bahawalpur. A statement attributed to Azhar said those killed in the attack on Jamia Masjid Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur included his elder sister and her husband, a nephew and his wife, another niece, and five children from his extended family.

Pak firing kills 15, injures 43

POONCH/ TANGDHAR: Fifteen innocent civilians have been killed and 43 injured in artillery firing by the Pakistan Army since yesterday night which has hit civilian areas in Poonch and Tangdhar, defence sources said on Wednesday. Pakistan Army has targeted civilian areas in the border areas. The shelling caused panic among villagers and damaged several houses. Shelling by Pakistan damaged civilian infrastructure, shattered window panes and cracked walls.

Pak: Ready to ease tensions if India de-escalates

PTI
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is ready to "wrap up" tensions with India, if New Delhi de-escalates the situation, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Wednesday.

His remarks came hours after India carried out a military strike on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Asif was reported as saying by Bloomberg Television that Pakistan will only respond if attacked.

"We have been saying all along in the last fortnight that we'll never initiate anything hostile towards India. But if we're attacked, we'll respond. If India backs down, we will definitely wrap up this tension," he said.

Regarding the possibility of talks, the minister said he was not aware of any such potential engagements.

Indian armed forces early Wednesday carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack.

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Flagging the truth: Pak soldiers mourn terrorists



Despite denying links to terrorism, Pakistan's hypocrisy was exposed on Wednesday as its soldiers attended funeral prayers of terrorists killed in an Indian missile strike in Muridke — with coffins wrapped in Pak national flag

WORLD SPEAKS

The world cannot afford a military confrontation between the two countries

■ UN Secretary-General Guterres

It's a shame. I just hope it lends very quickly

■ US President Donald Trump

India is justified in striking terrorist infrastructure. There can be no impunity for terrorists

■ Ex-UK PM Rishi Sunak

We are concerned about the ongoing situation. India and Pakistan are and will always be each other's neighbours. They're both China's neighbours as well

■ Chinese foreign ministry

We are deeply concerned about the intensifying military confrontation between India and Pakistan after the terrorist attack near the city of Pahalgam

■ Russian foreign ministry

No more tests for maestro of timing

PTI
NEW DELHI

A defining chapter in Indian Test cricket closed today as Rohit Sharma, the elegant right-hander and national captain, formally announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect, ending weeks of speculation surrounding his red-ball future.

The announcement was made via social media on Wednesday morning, where the 38-year-old expressed heartfelt gratitude to his fans and reflected on a journey that transformed him from a middle-order hopeful into one of India's most dependable Test openers and leaders.

"It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites," wrote Rohit on Instagram, adding that he would



continue playing ODIs.

Sources within the BCCI had long hinted that Rohit was contemplating a Test exit, especially after India's turbulent outings in recent red-ball series. The decision now opens the door for a new Test captain to take charge for the upcoming five-match Test series in England.

(Detail on Sports Page)

SIRENS WAIL, LIGHTS OFF DURING MOCK DRILL

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

At 7:30 PM on Wednesday, Bhopal came to a standstill as pitch darkness engulfed the city during a 12-minute blackout drill simulating wartime conditions. Sirens wailed across neighbourhoods, reminiscent of the 1971 India-Pakistan war, especially for elderly citizens who lived through that era.

The blackout was part of a state-wide civil defence exercise to prepare citizens and authorities for emergency situations, amid rising geopolitical tension. The drill, intensified by overcast skies, created a realistic war-like atmosphere.

Lights were voluntarily switched off in homes, shops, hospitals, malls, hotels and even vehicles. Major intersections like Board Office, Roshanpura, Raja Bhoj Bridge, Kolar Road and MP Nagar saw traffic halt as police instructed commuters to turn off headlights. VIP Road, too, plunged



A view of Bhopal during black out on Wednesday evening

CM MONITORS DRILL, URGES AWARENESS

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav reviewed the drill operations across all five cities and held discussions with district collectors. He said that every district must remain alert and complete all necessary civil defence preparations. He also directed that civilians be educated about emergency protocols to protect themselves in crises. "Public participation and awareness are key to a safe and effective response," CM said, calling on officials to intensify civil defence outreach efforts.

into complete darkness, with long queues of stationary vehicles lining the street.

In the Old City, areas like Jehangirabad, Shahjehanaabad, Aishbagh, and Chowk followed suit. Even the Taj-ul-Masajid's minaret lights

were switched off, adding to the chilling realism of the scene. Police made announcements across the city urging people to cooperate and follow protocol.

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Coaching centre owner held in Love Jihad case

24 obscene videos found

FP News Service
MORENA

In a shocking revelation, police nabbed Aslam Khan alias Abhi, owner of a computer coaching centre named Abhi Sansayat in Jiwajiganj, on charges of blackmail, sexual exploitation, and Love Jihad. The arrest followed com-

plaints from a victim's family and members of the Hindu Jagran Manch.

Khan allegedly posed as a Hindu named 'Abhi' and lured female students into his institute by showcasing his supposed devotion to Lord Shiva. Daily writings of Shiv Mahima on the classroom blackboard and multiple photos of Lord Shiva on the premises were used as a cover to mislead students and parents. Police recovered 24 objectionable



Aslam Khan alias Abhi

videos recorded through hidden cameras installed in the institute's library. The videos allegedly show Khan engaging in obscene acts with female students, whom he later blackmailed by threatening to leak the footage.

► Continued on | P8



Flawless mission: PM tells Cabinet

IAN S
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Union Cabinet, where he shared details on Operation Sindoor -- a targeted military strike carried out by the Indian defence forces on nine terror camps across the border in the early hours of the day.

During the meeting, PM Modi informed the cabinet that the operation was executed exactly as planned, with "no mistakes whatsoever."

He emphasised that the Army had carried out the mission with utmost precision, adhering strictly to the detailed preparations that had been made in advance.

Sources said the Prime Minister praised the armed forces for their "commendable job" and "immaculate execution," underlining their professional-

ism and commitment to national security.

The cabinet ministers unanimously expressed confidence in PM Modi's leadership and lauded the armed forces for their successful operation.

They conveyed that the entire nation stood firmly behind the Prime Minister and the military establishment in the fight against terrorism.

The strike, targeting terror launchpads and camps used for infiltration across the border, is being viewed as a strong message against cross-border terrorism. The Indian Army, Navy and the Air Force, in a historic tri-services operation, carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, in response to the Pahalgam attack in which 26 civilians were killed on April 22. PM Modi constantly monitored the overnight operation.



OP SANKALP

22 Naxals killed in Chh'garh encounter

PTI
BIJAPUR

Twenty-two Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces on Wednesday in the forests of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district bordering Telangana during Operation Sankalp, a massive counter-insurgency initiative, a senior police official said.

Since this operation launched on April 21, at least 35 encounters have taken place between security forces and Naxalites in the Karregutta and adjoining hills surrounded by dense forest, wherein 26 bodies of ultras and around 40 fire-arms have been recovered, he said.

Over 400 improvised explosive devices (IEDs), approximately 2 tonnes of explosive materials and more than six tonnes of ration items, medicines, daily use materials and other Maoist belongings have been seized during the operation.

Operation Sankalp, one of the biggest counter-insurgency actions launched in the Bastar region, involves around 28,000 security personnel.

These troopers belong to different units, including District Reserve Guard (DRG), Bastar Fighters, Special Task Force (STF), all parts of the state police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and its elite unit CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action).

► Continued on | P8

STORM FURY | Rain, gusty winds, hail disrupt life across state

Temps drop by 8-10°C

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Rainfall and thunder activities brought a sharp dip in temperature across the state with most regions recording a dip of 8-10 degree Celsius on Wednesday.

Bhopal's maximum temperature plummeted to 31.4 °C; around 9.4 °C below the seasonal average. The city recorded a low of 19.2 °C which was 6.7 °C below normal.

Unseasonal showers accompanied by thunder and strong winds impacted many parts of the state in the last 24 hours. Meghnagar (Jhabua) registered rainfall of 155 mm, highest in the state. The duty officer of the weather department stated that hailstorms have been reported in Dhar and Jhabua. Dust storms swept through Dewas, Khandwa, Burhanpur and Badwani. During the thunderstorm, high velocity winds affected several cities. Wind speed peaked at 121 kmph in Indore and around 80 kmph in Harda.

Heavy rain, gusty wing warning

Weather department issued a warning of heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorm, gusty winds with speeds between 50 to 60 kmph in isolated places of Barwani, Alirajpur, Jhabua, Dhar and Ratlam. Thunderstorm and high velocity winds are likely in Bhopal, Vidisha, Raisen, Sehore, Rajgarh, Narmadapuram, Ujjain, Dewas, Shajapur, Agar, Mandasaur, Neemuch, Guna, Ashok Nagar, Shivpuri, Sheopur Kalan, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Chhattarpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari etc. Hailstorm, thunder storm, gusty winds with speed of 50 to 60 km per hour are likely in Betul, Harda, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Khargone, Indore, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Balaghat, Pandhurna districts. Thunderstorms and gusty winds are likely to lash many other regions of the state.

Wind speed	
Indore	121 kmph
Harda	80 kmph
Sehore	74 kmph
Ujjain	74 kmph
Bhopal	63 kmph
Shajapur	49 kmph
Sagar	43 kmph
Chhindwara	34 kmph

State is experiencing increased moisture content. A western disturbance as a cyclonic circulation over

Rainfall	
Meghnagar	155 mm
Kotma	37 mm
Chhindwara	21 mm
Sonkutch	32 mm
Petlawad	28.4 mm
Hatpipliya	28 mm
Satwas	26 mm
Pandhana	25 mm
Indore	24.5 mm
Kukshi	22 mm
Harrai	21 mm
Jawar	20 mm
Dewas	19 mm
Lakhnadon	15.2 mm

Max temp and departure from seasonal average	
Betul	33°C (-7.9)
Dhar	30.2°C (-9.7)
Guna	33.7°C (-7.8)
Gwalior	37°C (-4.5)
Narmadapuram	33.6°C (-8.4)
Khandwa	41.1°C (-7.6)
Chhindwara	34.8°C (-4.3)
Damoh	37.6°C (-4.7)
Indore	28.6°C (-11.6)

West Rajasthan and neighbourhood now lies over West Madhya Pradesh between 1.5 and 7.6 km above sea level. Upper Air Circulation over northwest Madhya Pradesh and neighbourhood persists and now seen at 0.9 km above mean sea level. The east west trough now runs from southwest Rajasthan to north Jharkhand across cyclonic circulation over northwest Madhya Pradesh, East Madhya Pradesh.

CM: Working women hostels in all cities

Milk for anganwadi children soon

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Chief minister Mohan Yadav said hostels for working women would be set up in all cities of the state. Besides, women and child development department and Ayush department will prepare an action plan for the health of women and children, their physical growth and availability of nutrition.

The chief minister was reviewing activities of women and child development department at Mantralaya on Wednesday. He directed officials to present an action plan within a month over how to improve the supplementary

food offered at anganwadis. To provide protein rich food, gram and other nutrition sources will be given. Milk procured from milk unions will be provided to anganwadi children. Nutritious food will be provided to pregnant women.

He added that resources of social institutes, industrial units and temples would be used for betterment of anganwadis.

For safe child birth, adequate facilities will be provided to pregnant women who reach hospitals from remote areas before their delivery date.

All the anganwadis will be run in government buildings in all districts of the state. At the meeting, it was informed that through 57 one stop centres, help to women in distress will be provided.

Congress district heads to be appointed in two weeks

State in-charge held meetings of several committees

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Congress's state in-charge, Harish Choudhary, and MPCC president Jitu Patwari held a meeting with the members of various committees of the party on Wednesday.

At the election management committee meeting, the party decided to complete the formalities for appointments soon.

The posts of district unit presidents should be filled within two weeks, Choudhary said.

He said block presidents should also be appointed and pending issues settled.

All partymen should swing into election management



after the appointments, he said. Choudhary had to hold a meeting with the media cell, too. But all spokespersons were not informed about the meeting.

Most of the spokespersons were absent from the meeting because of certain confusion.

Choudhary, however, held a meeting with the media and social media in-charges.

He told all the in-charges to get ready for the election.

The party has to be ready at the grassroots and look more aggressive.

BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

‘Officials made false claim in HC about UCC burning’

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Bhopal gas tragedy survivors, on Wednesday, charged the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Bhopal Tragedy with making false representations before High Court.

They addressed media persons on Wednesday.

According to them, the official, KK Dubey, in his affidavit omitted critical information on the release of toxic chemicals during the recent incineration trial runs of Union Carbide's hazardous waste at Pithampur.

Expert opinion on the 300-page report on the trial incinerations makes it clear that the high court was deliberately kept unaware of the leakage of anywhere between 5 to 20 kilograms of metallic mercury. Exposure to mercury damages the brain and it is so poisonous that according to the WHO there are no safe limits of exposure to mercury.

Rachna Dhingra of the Bhopal Group for Information and Action, said, "Professor Asif Qureshi from IIT Hyderabad carried out a simple exercise of mass balance for mercury on the basis of the information provided in the report and found that the incineration of 10 tons of hazardous waste caused the emission of 1.53 to 6.88 kilograms of mercury. It is shocking that Mr Dube has not included this information in the affidavit he submitted to the High Court."

Chintan meeting can be held in Pachmarhi

The Congress may organise a Chintan meeting in Pachmarhi in the coming days, keeping in mind the assembly election of 2028.

It figured in several meetings between the party in charge and the leaders that the Congress holds a state conference.

Every leader of the party should participate in it.

Save Constitution drive put off

The Congress has put off its save constitution (Samvidhan Bachao) campaign, keeping in mind the situation arising out of Operation Soindoor by the Indian Army.

ABC Centre crisis

Current centres: Karariya, Adampur, Kajlikheda
Annual sterilisations: 20,000 stray dogs
NGO exit: Kajlikheda, Feb 2025

Stopgap solution: 1 vet handling 2 centres
Planned expansion: 6 new centres

Funds requested: ₹15.2 crore
Decision timeline: After May 10

184 mule bank accounts identified, owners get notice

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Although the cyber conmen are operating from far off areas and overseas, they are using local bank accounts for transferring the cash duped from people through digital arrests and other pretexts. Cyber crime branch police have identified 184 suspected mule bank accounts in Bhopal through joint cyber crime co-ordination team (JCCT) portal or Samanvay portal. Notices are now being issued to owner of these suspected mule bank accounts.

Cyber crime branch officials said cyber police of other states sealed the suspected mule bank accounts and shared their information and details of their owners on JCCT portal as these bank accounts were found to be used by the cyber conmen for com-



Till now, notices have been issued to owners of 70 such bank a/cs in the city

Bank accounts used for transferring cash duped through digital arrest, other pretexts

mitting frauds.

Bhopal cyber crime branch identified the mule bank accounts that were opened in different banks in Bhopal and prepared a list of their

owners with their address and other details.

ACP (cyber crime) Sujcet Tiwari said a team had been formed for issuing notice to owners of these bank accounts while informing them to approach the cyber cops of the concerned cities for giving clarification. Till now, notices have been issued to owners of 70 such bank accounts in the city, he added.

Earlier, the cyber crime branch had issued notices to banks to take action against suspected mule bank accounts and help cops in their identification. Moreover, bank officials were asked to strengthen the verification process for opening new bank accounts after it came to fore that people from outside the city and states opened bank accounts on forged documents and fake rent agreements.

2 female cheetahs to be translocated

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

After successfully sending two of its male cheetahs to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, the Kuno National Park is also keeping its fingers crossed on the translocation of two female cheetahs.

Interacting with Free Press, Kuno National Park Field Director Uttam Kumar Sharma said that cheetahs are Schedule 1 wild animals, so state government permission is required for their translocation. The Kuno National Park has the state government's go-ahead to translocate two male and two female cheetahs to the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary.

In April this year, in a first within the state, male cheetahs Prabhash and Pavak were translocated to the Gandhi

First Kuno, then Gandhi Sagar, & Nauradehi

Across the country, ten places were identified for cheetah translocation, including three in Madhya Pradesh. There were: Kuno National Park, Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, and Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary. Kuno has a thriving population of cheetahs, and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary also has two males now. Cheetahs will also be translocated to Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, which has a good number of tigers.

Sagar Sanctuary, where they were released in the wild by CM Mohan Yadav. Both the cheetahs have adapted to the changed conditions.

BMHRC and IISER sign MoU for research in mental health care

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Center (BMHRC), Bhopal and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of promoting collaboration in research and experimental programs in mental health care.

BMHRC director-in-charge Dr Manisha Srivastava and IISER director professor Gobardhan Das signed the MoU at IISER.

Srivastava said that under the partnership, BMHRC and IISER will jointly identify research opportunities that can be worked on together. One of the key topics will be - increasing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology in the identification and treatment planning of mental illnesses. Apart from this, efforts to improve patient care by combining AI with medical imaging and electronic health records (EHRs) will also be included.

Man shoots at son, daughter-in-law injured

Dispute over drawing water from borewell

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

A 70-year-old man shot at his son following a tiff over drawing water from his borewell under Parwalia Sadak police station limits on Wednesday afternoon. However, his daughter-in-law was injured when she came in front to save her husband. An FIR has been registered against the man and he has been arrested with the licensed gun used in the crime, police said.

The woman (32) received bullet injuries in her arm and was rushed to the hospital by her husband. An FIR has been registered against the man and he has been arrested with the licensed gun used in the crime, police said.

According to reports, the accused identified as Ishwar Singh Lawana (70) and his son Naresh are farmers. Ishwar Singh lives on the upper floor of the same house in Gram Parwalia.

The father and son are not

on good terms.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Ishwar Singh wanted Naresh and his wife Sangeeta to leave his house and used to object whenever the couple drew water from the borewell located in the backyard.

At about 3.30 pm on Wednesday, Naresh went in the backyard of the house to switch on the motor pump when Ishwar Singh raised objection.

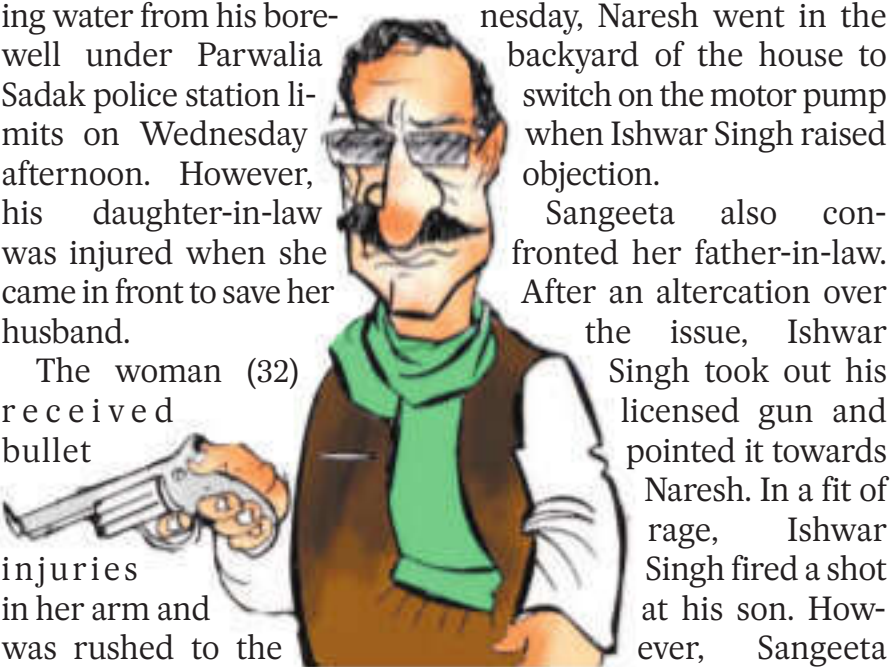
Sangeeta also confronted her father-in-law. After an altercation over the issue, Ishwar

Singh took out his licensed gun and pointed it towards Naresh. In a fit of rage, Ishwar

Singh fired a shot at his son. However, Sangeeta came in between and was hit in her left arm.

Naresh called police and admitted his wife to the hospital where her condition is reported to be stable.

Parwalia Sadak police station incharge Rohit Nagar said the accused had been caught with the firearm and a case for attempt to murder and other relevant sections of BNS had been registered against him.



Vet shortage hits ABC centres amid NGO exit, funds delay

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

A dispute between Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and an NGO has triggered an acute shortage of veterinary doctors at Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres in the city. The issue stems from the abrupt withdrawal of services by the NGO managing the Kajlikheda ABC centre in February, leaving BMC scrambling to manage operations.

Currently, Bhopal has three ABC centres—Karariya, Adampur and Kajlikheda—



which collectively sterilise nearly 20,000 stray dogs every year. These centres function with NGO partnerships, but the Kajlikheda fallout has forced the BMC to divert limited manpower. As a temporary solution, Dr. Saurabh, who was already heading the Karariya centre, has been

given additional charge of the Kajlikheda unit.

The move has drawn sharp criticism from animal welfare activists and pet lovers, who question the feasibility of one vet managing two high-demand centres. Concerns over post-operative care, rising dog fatalities, and overall mismanagement are being raised loudly.

‘Arrangement temporary’

Dr. D.P. Singh, in-charge of all ABC centres under BMC, has refuted these allegations. Speaking to Free Press, he said

that the arrangement is temporary, intended to sustain sterilisation work and control costs until new systems are in place.

BMC is currently in the process of inviting fresh tenders for all three existing centres and is also planning to add six more ABC centres across the city. A funding proposal of ₹15.2 crore has already been submitted to the central government.

According to Dr. Singh, a final decision regarding the new tenders and expansion plans is expected after an online review meeting post-May 10.

Students taking MPBSE Class 10, 12 exams falling consistently

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

The number of students taking the High School and the Higher Secondary examinations conducted by Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE) is consistently falling. The number of the Class 10 (High School) examinees dropped by 1.13 lakh and of the Class 12 (Higher Secondary) by 5,000 between 2022 and 2025. And it applies to both regular and private students including girls and boys.

According to the MPBSE

Number of High School examinees drops by 1.13L, Higher Secondary by 6K between 2022 and 2025

data, in the year 2022, a total of 10.66 lakh students had registered for the Class 10 (High School) examination of the board. Their number fell to 9.53 lakh this year - a drop of 10.6%. The number of both regular and private students dropped in this period.

In 2022, 9.51 lakh regular

students had taken the exam. In 2025, their number fell to 8.10 lakh - an almost 15% drop. In 2024, 9.91 lakh students had registered for the exam of which 8.27 lakh were regular and 1.63 lakh were private.

The number of both boys and girls registering for the Class 10 exam as regular candidates has been falling. In 2022, 4.98 lakh boys had applied for the exam. Their number fell to 4.08 lakh in 2025. The number of boys taking the exam this year was almost 90,000 less than in 2022. The same is the case

with the girls. In 2022, 4.53 lakh girls registered for Class 10 exam. Their number fell by 52,000 to 4.01 lakh in 2025.

The same trend is visible with regard to Higher Secondary (Class 12) examination. In 2022, 7.12 lakh students had registered for the exam while in 2025, their number fell to 7.06 lakh. The number of both boys and girls fell. In 2022, 3.25 lakh boys and 3.09 lakh girls had registered for the exam as regular candidates. Their numbers were 3 lakh and 3.04 lakh respectively in 2025.

Form-filling starts for MPBSE second exam

Forms can be filled online till midnight of May 21; Board issues guidelines

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Filling of forms for the High School and the Higher Secondary second examina-

tions 2024-25, conducted by MPBSE, began on Wednesday through MP Online portal.

MPBSE also issued guidelines regarding the 'Second Examination' for High School (Class 10) and Higher Secondary (12).

Forms can be filled till the midnight of May 21. The second examination of Class 10 will be held from June 17 to June 26. Class 12 second examination will be held

Students who have failed in one or more subjects and those who want to improve their marks can take the second exam

from June 17 to July 5 from 9 am to 12 noon at the scheduled examination centers. Detailed examina-

tion schedule can be seen on the board's website

The Board is organising a second examination instead of a supplementary examination from this year. The decision has been taken in keeping with the New Education Policy - 2020. Besides students who have failed in one or more subjects, those who want to improve their marks can also take the second exam.

GEARING UP FOR EMERGENCY | Police, SDRF and fire teams conduct search and rescue operations to enhance coordination

5 CITIES TEST war readiness

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

In a massive state-wide civil defence simulation, mock drills were conducted on Wednesday across five major districts of Madhya Pradesh — Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Katni. The coordinated exercise, held as per directives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, aimed at preparing forces and civilians alike for war-like emergency scenarios.

The drills kicked off around 4 PM and continued into the evening with a city-wide blackout, plunging urban areas into total darkness for several minutes. This was followed by emergency response rehearsals, where police and civil defence units simulated fire control, rescue of injured civilians and emergency evacuations.

At Raja Bhoj Airport, authorities enacted a special war-time fire incident drill to test firefighting and passenger safety protocols. Local residents, though witnessing such an event for the first time, cooperated fully with the administration, following directions and observing safety procedures.

Authorities recorded blackout sequences and teams practised moving

casualties to nearby hospitals amid simulated chaos—demonstrating high alertness and rapid response.



A cop doing rehearsal to save the life of a person at New Market

Fire, collapses & attacks: Mock drills simulate real-life disasters



Police conduct a drill at Nehru Nagar police lines as part of nationwide civil defence exercise on Wednesday

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Following orders from the Ministry of Home Affairs against the backdrop of growing tensions with Pakistan, mock drills were carried out at four separate spots in Bhopal on Wednesday.

Police teams, the health department, and the district administration coordinated during the search and rescue operations conducted as a part of the drill.

Police, SDRF (state disaster response force), and firefighters headed by Police

Commissioner Harinarayanchari Mishra carried out a rehearsal of rescuing people trapped in a fire at a mall in MP Nagar at 4 pm. The firefighters contained the fire as the police and SDRF teams rescued those trapped inside. Two persons posing as injured were rushed to the temporary hospital set up at the Nutan College in two ambulances. One of the seriously injured was shifted to the red zone at the temporary hospital.

Officials said that the hospital has a capacity of 20 beds with a staff of 110 people, including specialised doctors, a medical officer, nursing staff, paramedical, volunteers, and medical students.

Police officials said a mock drill was conducted at the BHEL premises by joint teams of police, Nagar Nigam, district administration, and BHEL administration

under Additional DCP Mahaveer Singh Mugalde. A rehearsal of a search and rescue operation was launched following an attack, and the injured were admitted to Sanjivani and Kasturba Hospitals.

In the morning, police personnel conducted a mock drill at Nehru Nagar police lines, where firefighters controlled a fire at a house. The cops were trained how to give primary medical treatment and CPR to the injured in case of an attack or disaster.

Police Commissioner Mishra said the objective of the mock drills was to create awareness among people and train them on how to respond in case of a disaster or untoward situation. The drills were also aimed at improving the coordination among different teams for search and rescue operations, he added.



Fire fighters use water canon to douse fire at a Mall

PEOPLE BROUGHT OUT OF 'COLLAPSED BUILDING'

A separate mock drill was carried out at Kokta in Bhopal rural. A rehearsal was carried out by joint teams of the SDRF, police, and administration to rescue people from a collapsed building. The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals.



Fire fighters and health employees saving lives of common people during mock drill at Panchanan building

Quick Facts

Districts Covered: Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Katni

Time: Started at 4 PM, included evening blackout

Focus Areas: Fire response, rescue ops, war-time readiness

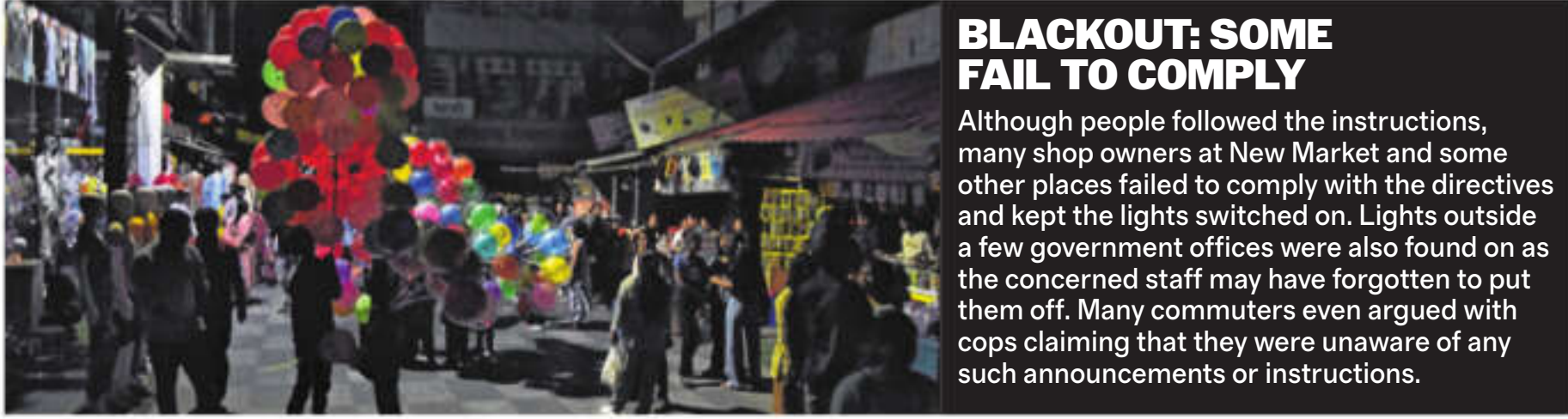
Lead Agency: Civil Defence under Ministry of Home Affairs

Public Response: Full cooperation

Special Site Drill: Fire emergency at Raja Bhoj Airport

RESCUE OP AT NEW MARKET

In the evening, police carried out a rehearsal of rescuing people during an attack at New Market. The rescued people were safely escorted to Nehru Nagar police lines.



New Market under the cover of darkness

BLACKOUT: SOME FAIL TO COMPLY

Although people followed the instructions, many shop owners at New Market and some other places failed to comply with the directives and kept the lights switched on. Lights outside a few government offices were also found on as the concerned staff may have forgotten to put them off. Many commuters even argued with cops claiming that they were unaware of any such announcements or instructions.

DM meets officials

District Magistrate Kaushalendra Vikram Singh held a meeting with the officials of different departments ahead of the mock drill. He said senior officials of 12 services have been named for conducting the mock drill in coordination with the NDRF and the SDRF. The mock drill included different activities, including rescue and search operations and blackout, he added.

Police, administration on alert mode after Operation Sindoor

CM and Congress leaders congratulate Indian Army

OUR STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

The government has asked the police and administration to remain on alert after Operation Sindoor.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) destroyed many terrorists' hideouts in POK to avenge the killings of tourists in Pahalgam in the early hours of Wednesday.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav told Director General of Police Kailash Makwana and ADG (Intelligence) Sai Manohar to keep the police on alert mode.

He held the talks with Makwana and Manohar after the Operation Sindoor.

Makwana also discussed law and order with the police officers across the state. He also said to the administration to remain alert.

Makwana told the officials to keep an eye on the suspicious people.

Operation Sindoor has delighted everyone. The officials have been told to monitor the suspicious people.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed happiness about the air attack on the terrorists' hideouts in POK.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi always translates his words into deeds, Yadav said.

The destruction of nine hideouts of Pakistani terrorists delighted every citizen of the country, he said.

The Indian Army has taught a lesson to the enemy, Yadav said.

He said all Indians were united against the massacre of



BJP MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani and BJP workers celebrate Operation Sindoor success

26 tourists in Pahalgam.

The Congress also expressed joy at the IAF action.

Leader of the Opposition Umang Singh congratulated the IAF. BJP's state unit president VD Sharma and MPCC president Jitu Patwari also congratulated the Indian Army for destroying terrorists' camps in Pakistan.



All India Muslim Tyohar committee members burn flag of Pakistan

People watch Indian Army's heroic deeds throughout night

CM congratulates the army at 2.16 am on social media

Bhopal: The people across the state woke up in the early hours of Wednesday to watch the heroic acts of the Indian Army inside the Pakistani territory.

Each resident kept himself posted about each moment of

the attack. The Indian Army informed the people about the action at 1:51am, writing Operation Sindoor.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav congratulated the Indian Army on social media at 2:16am. BJP's state unit president VD Sharma, organisational general secretary Hitanand Sharma and state media in-charge Ashish Agar-

wal remained active on social media throughout the night.

Whoever came to know about the army's action informed their acquaintances about it. Everyone was enthusiastic about the action. Every citizen of India wanted a strong action against Pakistan after the Pahalgam massacre.

The action of the Indian Army delighted every citizen.

माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल, मध्यप्रदेश

महत्वपूर्ण सूचना - द्वितीय परीक्षा

वर्ष 2025 की हाईस्कूल/हायर सेकेण्डरी के अनुत्तीर्ण विषयों की परीक्षा देने अथवा अंक सुधार के लिए द्वितीय परीक्षा का आयोजन

- ▶ राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 के तहत माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल द्वारा अब तक आयोजित होने वाली पूरक परीक्षा के स्थान पर अनुत्तीर्ण विषयों अथवा अंक सुधारने के लिए द्वितीय परीक्षा का आयोजन किया जा रहा है।
- ▶ द्वितीय परीक्षा में सम्मिलित होने के लिए छात्र एम.पी. ऑनलाइन के कियोस्क पर अपनी मुख्य परीक्षा के परीक्षाफल के आधार पर द्वितीय परीक्षा के विषय, अनुक्रमांक (रोल नंबर) की जानकारी देकर शुल्क का नगद भुगतान कर परीक्षा आवेदन पत्र भर सकेंगे।
- ▶ द्वितीय परीक्षा में छात्र को अनुत्तीर्ण विषयों का चयन अनिवार्य है परन्तु उत्तीर्ण विषयों का चयन स्वैच्छिक है।
- ▶ द्वितीय परीक्षा की अंक सूची मुख्य परीक्षा की भांति जारी की जायेगी।
- ▶ मंडल द्वारा जारी अंक सूची का अधिभार सर्वमान्य है।
- ▶ वर्ष 2025 की हाईस्कूल द्वितीय परीक्षा दिनांक 17 जून 2025 से 26 जून 2025 तक एवं हायर सेकेण्डरी द्वितीय परीक्षा दिनांक 17 जून 2025 से 05 जुलाई 2025 तक प्रातः 09:00 से 12:00 बजे तक निर्धारित परीक्षा केन्द्रों पर आयोजित होगी।
- ▶ अंतिम तिथि 2024-25 की हाईस्कूल एवं हायर सेकेण्डरी द्वितीय परीक्षा के लिए एम.पी. ऑनलाइन पोर्टल के माध्यम से **07 मई 2025 से 21 मई 2025 की रात्रि 12:00 बजे तक** आवेदन-पत्र भरे जा सकेंगे।

विस्तृत जानकारी एवं परीक्षा का कार्यक्रम मण्डल की वेबसाइट www.mpbse.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

म.प्र. माध्यम/119979/2025

Regional Digest



MANDLESHWAR

Labourers informed of government schemes

On the final day of Labour Awareness Week, judicial magistrate Preeti Jain informed workers at Braj Vihar Colony, Jalu, about benefits of having a labour card. Workers were given information on Ayushman cards, insurance, licences and traffic safety. Legal Aid Officer Chandresh Mandloi highlighted free treatment benefits under Ayushman Bharat. PLVs, law students, contractors, and many labourers were present.



NEEMUCH

City athletes shine at 4th Hind India Open Taekwondo Championship

Athletes excelled at the 4th Hind India Open Taekwondo Championship held in Jaipur on May 3-4, winning 1 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals under coach Muskan Meena and manager Laxmi Batham. Organised by Aryans Martial Arts Association, winners included Mahesh, Pankaj, Krishna, Tanmay, Akanksha, Jeevika, Niranjan and Unnati. District will host its championship on May 18.



MANDLESHWAR

Maharana Pratap Jayanti preparation

A meeting was held by the Kshatriya Rajput Samaj for the celebration of Maharana Pratap Jayanti on Sunday at Guru Sharan Academy in Pipliya Bujurg village. A procession was taken out from Maheshwar which passed through multiple villages. Responsibilities were assigned to members from nearby villages. The meeting was chaired by Pratap Singh Chauhan.

BARNAGAR

St Thomas achieves 100% result

St Thomas Higher Secondary School, achieved a 100% result in Classes X and XII this year. In Class XII, Vansh Alwani topped with 95.5% and in Class X, Navalika Bhati led with 95%. Several students scored above 90%. Management, Principal Molly Tomy and staff were present.

DHAR

Elections held at Bhoj Cooperative

Under rule 49 (7) of the MP Co-operative Societies Rules, 1982, elections of office bearers of Bhoj Sahakari Sanstha, were conducted during a meeting by election officer Bhuti Kumar Saxena. Ajay Chaudhary was elected president, Subhash Bhakar vice president, Prakash Lashkari, and eight other directors. Ajay Chaudhary has previously served as president of the District Cooperative Central Bank, Dhar.

MAHIDPUR

Mass wedding ceremony on Friday

A free mass wedding ceremony will be organised by Vishwakarma Vanshaj Utthan Sangathan and Narsingh Mandir Samiti, for 18 girls at Chintaman Ganapati Temple on Friday. The event will be attended by senior community members, saints and political/social leaders.

BADNAWAR

'Save Constitution' rally on Saturday

A 'Save Constitution' rally will be held in Dhar, starting from Lalbagh at 12:30 pm and concluding with a public meeting at the bus stand on Saturday. Dhar District Congress President Kamal Kishore Patidar held a meeting in Badnawar to mobilise support. He also praised the Indian Army's recent air strike on Pakistan, calling it a proud moment.

PIPLIA MANDI

Temple foundation stone laid

The foundation stone for Maa Ambe Temple and the unveiling of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's statue took place at Patidar Dharmashala on Wednesday at Jet-pura Road. The event began with a Kalash Yatra at 7:30 AM. Dignitaries including deputy CM Jagdish Devda, MP Sudhir Gupta and several Patidar leaders.

20 get offer letters at district employment fair

FP News Service

RATLAM

A district-level employment fair under the 'Yuva Sangam' initiative was organised on Wednesday at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), following government directives and under the guidance of collector Rajesh Batham.

The event, conducted with the support of the Women and Child Development Department under district programme officer Rajneesh Sinha, also aligned with the 'beti bachao, beti padhao' campaign.

ITI principal U P Ahirwar informed that the fair saw participation from represen-

tatives of 21 companies. Around 86 youth registered and 20 were provided offer letters.

Under various government schemes such as MUDRA Loan, Education Loan, CM Udyam Kranti, PMFME, and Suryaghar Yojana, 16 applications were approved, sanctioning loans worth Rs 63.78 lakh.

The Women and Child Development Department set up information stalls. Medal and certificate ceremonies were held for selected candidates. Officials urged youth to avoid mobile distractions and aim for self-reliance through small-scale entrepreneurship.

ACCIDENT | Car struck their bike head-on

Father & son killed in crash, 3 injured

FP News Service

KUKSHI

A man and his son were killed in a collision between a car and two bikes on the Kukshi-Alirajpur road in Ali village. The victims, identified as Zorawar (45) and his son Dinesh (24), were residents of Umri village near Jobat.

The accident occurred around 10 am when a car struck their bike head-on. The impact caused a second bike, which was following closely behind, to collide with



the vehicle.

Three youths from Palasi village, riding on the second bike, were injured in the

crash. They were identified as Virendra, Prakash and Nitesh. All three suffered serious head injuries and were

taken to Kukshi Civil Hospital. Due to the severity of their injuries, they were referred to Barwani Hospital for further treatment.

Zorawar and Dinesh were transported to Kukshi Civil Hospital by a 108 ambulance but tragically died before reaching the hospital. Following the accident, the car's driver fled the scene with the vehicle. Local police have arrived at the site to investigate the incident. A postmortem examination of the deceased is currently being conducted at Kukshi Civil Hospital.

Collector resolves 36 complaints received at weekly public hearing

FP News Service

JHABUA

Collector Neha Meena conducted a public hearing at district headquarters on Tuesday, where she addressed various problems raised by residents.

During the session, she approved financial assistance for several applicants.

Saloni, from Jhabua, received Rs 15,000 due to her family's poor financial condition. Meera Baiva Madia Solanki was granted Rs 10,000 after losing her husband and needing support. Additionally, three applicants—Ganesh, Narve Singh and Krishnakant—each received Rs 5,000 for their financial struggles.

Other applications included requests for food grain



slips, shop registrations, and land demarcations. Kalu sought assistance for ration distribution, while Jyoti Verma requested help with her shop registration. Juwan Singh and Mikail raised concerns about land survey discrepancies and agricultural land demarcation, respectively. Residents of Pargi Falia requested a new hand pump due to lack of drinking water.

Collector Meena instructed concerned officers to resolve these issues promptly. A total of 36 applications were received during the hearing, highlighting the community's needs.

The session was attended by CEO Jitendra Singh Chauhan, district officers and local tehsildars, ensuring a collaborative approach to addressing public concerns.

Man gets life term for killing toddler son

FP News Service

DHAR

A man was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined Rs 5,000 by the additional sessions court in Dhar for killing his one-and-a-half-year-old son under the influence of black magic. The verdict was delivered by judge Paras Kumar Jain on Tuesday. The incident took place on September 5, 2023, in Chandan Nagar. Ghatabillo, under Pithampur police station. According to the complaint filed by Bhagwandas Parihar, his son Umesh had been living with tantriks for the past two years and often spoke about occult practices. On the day of the incident, Umesh began chanting mantras and sprinkling ash and water on family members. When they resisted, he violently drove them out of the house and in a shocking act, killed his toddler son by slamming him to the ground multiple times. A case was registered against Umesh under IPC Sections 323, 302 and 436. Pithampur police arrested and produced him in court. The investigation, led by SI Prashant Pal, gathered strong evidence resulting in a solid prosecution.

Exam dates for diploma in Animal Husbandry out

FP News Service

SENDHWA

Madhya Pradesh Employees Selection Board announced the exam dates for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Technology Diploma for the 2025-26 session.

The Intensive Test (IIT) will take place on June 12 in two shifts. Online applications can be submitted from May 7 to May 21.

Dr Abhay Pandey, director of Sendhwa Animal Husbandry Diploma College, emphasised that passing the entrance exam is necessary for admission. Madhya Pradesh has five government and five private colleges offering this diploma, making it a valuable opportunity for students in the Barwani district. The future in animal husbandry and related fields looks promising, especially with recent govern-

ment job openings in veterinary hospitals.

The entrance exam fee is Rs 400 for general students and Rs 200 for reserved categories.

A help desk has been established at the institute to assist candidates with information about the exam and admission process. Interested students are encouraged to visit the institute before the application deadline on May 21 to gather all necessary details.

Celebrations after Indian Army's 'Operation Sindoor'



Susner: Following the Indian Army's midnight airstrike on nine terror camps in Pakistan and PoK, locals in Susner celebrated with fireworks. The gathering, led by BJP Mandal vice president

Kamal Garg near Hathi Darwaza, honoured the Army's response to the Pahalgam attack. Citizens including Mohan Kanudiya, Bharat Soni, Mukesh Bhati and others participated.



Sendhwa / Barwani : After the Indian Army's 'Operation Sindoor' airstrike on nine terror camps in PoK, Barwani witnessed patriotic celebrations. Locals waved the national flag and chanted slogans in support of the Army. BJP leaders, including

MP Gajendra Singh Patel and district president Ajay Yadav, led fireworks celebrations in Rajpur. Patel stated over 100 terrorists were killed, avenging the Pahalgam attack. Former MP Subhash Patel and other leaders also joined.



Ratlam : BJP workers celebrated with fireworks and patriotic slogans following the Indian Army's air strike on terror camps in Pakistan. Led by district president Pradeep Upadhyay, a procession march was taken out from the party office to Dalumodi Bazaar, waving the national flag. Upadhyay said the Army gave a befitting reply to the Pahalgam attack. BJP leaders Nirmal Kataria, Jaywant Kothari, Sunil Saraswat, Manisha Sharma, Manoj Sharma, Arun Tripathi and others joined the celebrations.

FP News Service

DHAR

Manawar Congress MLA and JAYS national president Dr Hiralal Alawa has red-flagged rising alcoholism among tribal youth in Dhar district, particularly in Dahi and Kukshi.

He claims in a viral video

Govt has failed to act against bootleggers

that the situation has become a headache for both government and administration.

Dr Alawa emphasises that issue is affecting the future

of the youth. He pointed out that many accidents occur due to drunk driving, with young people often failing to wear helmets because they are intoxicated.

Alawa has communicated these concerns to officials in Excise Department of Indore Division, but he claims no action has been taken. He

highlighted that alcohol is being smuggled from Dhar to Gujarat.

Villagers have previously caught liquor smugglers, but Alawa insists that if the administration does not act, he will personally take matters into his own hands by reporting offenders to the Excise Department and police in

People frustrated by chaotic traffic in Dhar



FP News Service

DHAR

Residents and visitors are frustrated by the poor traffic management in Dhar city. Often there are no cops to monitor traffic at main crossings like Trimurti Nagar, Ghoda Chowpatty and Mohan Talkies Bus Stand. The police department cites a shortage of staff as main reason for not manning these junctions.

Ghoda Chowpatty, home to four major schools is particularly problematic. When these schools have exams, traffic jams become common, making it difficult for parents and students. Mohan Talkies

crossing is currently the busiest intersection in the city, yet there are no police officers to manage the vehicles.

Around 200 to 250 buses pass through the city daily, but the absence of police at the bus stand raises safety concerns. Traffic at the bus stand is currently managed by bus agents. SP Manoj Kumar Singh has held meetings with the traffic police to address these issues, but improvements are yet to be seen.

Additionally, many shop owners have boards outside their stores that obstruct traffic. Police station in-charge, traffic, Prem Singh Thakur said they are trying to deploy men at important crossings.

JAL GANGA ABHIYAN

Several steps planned to conserve water

FP News Service

MANDSAUR

Under the ongoing Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan in district, recharge pits are being constructed near wells to improve groundwater levels.

The campaign, running until June 30, aims to promote water conservation and rejuvenate traditional water sources. As part of this initiative, new ponds are being created under MGNREGA, while old ponds, step wells and wells are being renovated. The campaign, treated as a public movement, is being implemented in urban and rural areas with active community participation.

It also includes afforestation drives and river cleanliness projects to ensure long-term water sustainability. Efforts under the campaign involve the proper use



of machinery and labour, with involvement of public representatives, and public and government agencies.

Activities include desilting wells and step wells, cleaning rivers and ponds and restoring water structures. The Jan Abhiyan Parishad is organising awareness programmes in villages to educate locals on the importance of water conservation.

12-YR-OLD'S DEATH BY SNAKEBITE

Protest against lack of facilities at civil hosp



FP News Service

SUSNER

A protest erupted on Wednesday in Susner following recent death of 12-year-old Sanyam Jain from a snake bite, which many blame on hospital negligence.

Anger citizens placed a large hoarding outside the civil hospital, calling it a "referral centre" as patients are often referred to other hospitals without proper treatment from the civil hospital. The protest highlighted the lack of emergency care and understaffing at the hospital.

Local MLA Bhero Singh Parihar visited the hospital where he reprimanded chief medical officer Dr Rajiv Barsana and demanded urgent action. Dr Barsana admitted the hospital has

only four doctors, often leaving patients without emergency care.

In response, officials including SDM Sarvesh Yadav inspected the hospital and promised Rs 4 lakh compensation to Sanyam's family. Health department issued three orders: appointing Dr BB Patidar as new Block Medical Officer, transferring Dr Suyash Bhardwaj for negligence and cancelling all leaves of doctors.



PANCHANG 8.5.2025 (UTTARAYAN)

Saka 1947 Samvat 2082
Month : Vaishakh Shukla 11 Thursday 12.30 PM
Nakshatra : Uttara 9.06 P.M. then Hest
Yoga : Hansa 1.57 A.M. then Vajra
Karan : Bay 1.42 A.M. then Kalady
Moon : Kanya

JUP. HER 2	VEN. SAT. RAHU. NEF 12
1. SUN. MER	
3	11
4 MARS	PLU 10
5	9
6 NETU. MOON	7
8	

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Alcoholism rising among tribal youth: MLA Alawa

WAR GAMES | NDRF, SDRF, Air Force, BSF, CISF, DRDO, police take part

Mock drills held to prepare citizens for emergencies

FP News Service
Gwalior

In response to heightened security concerns following the recent terrorist attack in Pahalagam and escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, several mock drills were conducted on Wednesday.

A joint mock drill including the NDRF, SDRF, Air Force, BSF, CISF, DRDO, Police and district administration was conducted to simulate a chemical emergency.

The drill was prompted by a staged incident where a tanker carrying ammonia gas col-



lided with a school bus near ITI College, leading to a gas leak. Emergency response teams, including the Army, BSF, Police, and Health Department stopped the gas leak and treated the injured within 40 minutes.

The operation involved creating a green corridor for the rapid evacuation of affected individuals, particularly students.

A subsequent civil defence drill commenced at 4 pm, featuring operations like rescue

missions and blackout procedures for community readiness to combat potential disasters. In another mock drill conducted in Sirol area, the challenge was to evacuate citizens trapped in a multi-storey building during an air attack. Gwalior is a sensitive area during war due to the Air Force base centre here. During Balakot air strike, Mirage-Sukhoi took off from here. It is the cantonment area of the army. There is BSF Academy, Tekanpur Stadium, and labs of DRDO & DRDE. There is a CRPF camp and the headquarters of NCC is also present here.

Eight students make it to merit list in board exams

Shivpuri: Five students from class 12th and three from class 10th have secured spots in the prestigious merit list. District Education Officer reported that the overall result for class 10th was 66.9%, while class 12th saw a higher success rate of 70.51%. Notably, this marks an impressive increase of 23.15% in class 12th and 15.39% in class 10th compared to last year. A standout performance was from CM Rise School, which boasted a 100% pass rate in class 10th and 99% in class 12th. Among the top achievers in class 12th, Shruti Jain scored 484 marks, claiming the eighth position, while in class 10th, Jagdamba Yadav from Sanskar Global School secured 492 marks, ranking ninth.

Lokayukta traps ASI accepting Rs 15K bribe

FP News Service
BHIND

Lokayukta police arrested ASI Tulsaram Kothari from Malanpur police station in Bhind district on Wednesday for accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000.

The arrest followed a complaint filed by Dinesh Singh Dhakad, who claimed that Kothari had demanded Rs 50,000 to remove the names of his father and brother from an assault case. The amount was later negotiated to Rs 15,000.

On April 13, a case was registered against eight individ-

uals, including Dhakad's relatives, in connection with a wedding dispute. ASI Kothari had allegedly demanded Rs 50,000 in return for clearing their names. A raid was conducted at Kothari's residence within the police station premises, leading to the recovery of Rs 15,000, with Rs 10,000 allegedly intended for the station in-charge and Rs 5,000 for Kothari himself.

A case has been registered against Kothari under the Prevention of Corruption Act, as authorities continue their investigation of the matter.

Students excel in exams overcoming hurdles



FP News Service
BHIND

Yogyata Tank, a student from Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Lahar, has achieved remarkable success by securing first position in the state in Home Science, despite limited resources.

The daughter of a teacher and a housewife, Yogyata credits her success to studying diligently on YouTube, demonstrating her determination to succeed. She now aims to prepare for the UPSC examinations.

Another inspiring story comes from Maharoof Bano of Denida, who achieved third

position in the state in the same subject. Her father, Yakub Khan, runs a small bag sewing shop, and Maharoof overcame financial constraints by borrowing books from her teacher.

In the science stream, Sachin Sharma from Touch Stone School in Gohad secured eighth position in Mathematics.

Additionally, Madhu Rajawat of MLB Kanya Vidyalaya placed tenth in the state for class 10, using YouTube as her primary study tool, while Kajal Baghel secured ninth position, also relying on self-study methods.

Doctor held for molesting woman during check-up

FP News Service
Gwalior

A 30-year-old woman was allegedly molested by a doctor under the pretext of a medical examination in Gwalior's Nitin Nagar area.

The accused, Dr Ramashankar Sharma, was arrested after the victim filed a complaint at the Thatipur police station. The woman, a resident of Hurawali, had been undergoing treatment for fever and headaches at Sharma's clinic. On Tuesday evening, she visited the clinic with her brother-in-law. After prescribing medicine, the doctor sent her brother-in-law to a medical store and then called her inside to check her blood pressure. The woman alleged that he inappropriately touched her under the guise of using a stethoscope. When she protested, he dismissed her concerns as part of the examination. After returning home, she informed her husband, who immediately took her to the police. Thatipur police swiftly registered a case and arrested Sharma before he could flee. Locals claim the accused is a quack. Investigations are ongoing.

WORLD CLEANLINESS DAY

Hand-washing prog held at Dist Hosp

Morena: To celebrate World Cleanliness Day, a hand washing programme was held at District Hospital, Morena. Civil surgeon Gajendra Singh Tomar led the initiative, and shed light on the importance of cleanliness in preventing infections.

Step-by-step hand-washing instructions were provided to staff nurses and patient relatives present at the hospital.

Collector performs 'Kanyadaan' ceremony of orphaned girl



FP News Service
BHIND

In a heart-warming display of compassion, collector Sanjeev Srivastava performed 'Kanyadaan' ceremony for Varsha Dohre, an orphan girl who lost her parents and most recently, her elder brother in a tragic accident.

She was living with her aunt and uncle in Majhtaura locality of Lahar. Upon learning plight, collector, accompanied by his wife Ruchi Srivastava, attended the wedding cer-

emony late Monday night, participating in the rituals for over an hour.

He said that Varsha is the daughter of all of us. In addition to performing Kanyadan, the collector arranged a feast for the wedding guests and presented gifts to the couple, wishing them a joyful married life. Support also came from local public representatives; former MLA Dr Govind Singh provided financial assistance, while current MLA Ambrish Sharma contributed gifts to couple.

5-yr-old falls into boiling pot, dies

FP News Service
SHIVPURI

A 5-year-old girl, identified as Kirti Kushwaha, tragically lost her life after a horrific accident during a wedding ceremony in Pachavali village under the Rannaud police station. While attending the celebration at the home of Lallu Kewat, Kirti lost her balance while descending the stairs and fell into a hot vegetable pot. The incident occurred on Monday afternoon while food was being prepared for the wedding. Kirti sustained severe burns, with doctors reporting 95% burn injuries. She was initially rushed to Medical College Shivpuri but was referred to a private hospital in Gwalior due to the severity of her injuries. In a shocking turn of events, Kirti's family accused the ambulance driver of negligence, claiming he abandoned them en route to Gwalior, forcing them to transport her in a private vehicle.

Residents celebrate retaliatory airstrike



FP News Service
Gwalior

A large number of Muslims came out to celebrate Operation Sindoor - India's successful strike on terrorist hideouts at Pakistan.

The people gathered at Maharaj Bada, members waved the tricolour and chanted slo-

gans of 'Hindustan Zindabad'. Residents from various backgrounds echoed the sentiments of the Muslim community, emphasising the need to eliminate terrorism from India. Many called for continued and more stringent measures against Pakistan to ensure national security.

Jabalpur

War preparations: Mock drills held at several places

FP News Service
Jabalpur

To prepare the residents for emergency war situations and to streamline administrative arrangements, a mock drill was conducted at various locations in urban and rural areas of the district.

There was a blackout in the district that started at 7.30 pm and ended at 7.42 pm. The citizens turn off the lights in their homes, shops, offices, and institutions after hearing the siren.

The vehicles on the road were stopped immediately and their headlights and tail



lamps were turned off.

The mock drill was conducted in locations including Samdariya Mall. Garment Cluster Gohalpur, Sihora and Old Gorakhpur police station. During the mock drill,

simulated emergencies were created in these locations at regular intervals.

The citizens took note of the mock drill in a normal preparatory procedure and did not panic.

3 arrested for killing man over old enmity

FP News Service
Jabalpur

Three persons were arrested for murdering a man over an old enmity in Ghamapur locality. Ankit Vanshkar, Sahil Vanshkar and Nikki Vanshkar were arrested for killing Bablu Gontia. The trio were arrested after post-mortem report revealed the deceased Bablu had suffered serious internal injuries on his neck, head, and near his eye due to the assault. Sunil Gontia, brother of deceased, told the police his brother said his brother had been assaulted by the trio over an old enmity. After Bablu returned home, he took him to a clinic as no apparent injury was visible.

MMS SCANDAL AT ENGG COLLEGE

Police leave for Delhi to arrest accused girl's boyfriend

FP New Service
Jabalpur

A city police team has left for Delhi to arrest the boyfriend of a second-year female student studying at the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM) accused of made videos of a senior student in the hostel bathroom.

According to police, the stu-

dent was shooting videos of girls taking baths at the behest of her boyfriend who resides in Delhi. The BTech second-year student has allegedly made three videos one after the other and sent them on her boyfriend's mobile.

Khamaria police investigating the case suspect that the accused girl might have made videos of other girls too. Police have seized two mobile

phones and a laptop of her.

The student came in contact with her boyfriend during online study in a group last year, after which they exchanged their mobile numbers and started talking on phone.

The police said the girl used to visit Delhi to meet her boyfriend. She would leave for Delhi on Sunday evening and return to the hostel on Monday morning.

Makbara-Samadhi goof up

Teacher barred from preparing question paper for 3 years

FP News Service
Jabalpur

The academic council of Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya (RDVV) has decided to debar the teacher from preparing question papers for three years for using the word 'Makbara' instead of 'Samadhi' while referring to the resting place of Gondwana warrior queen Rani Durgavati in an exam question.

The council has also recommended action against the book from where the teacher has picked the information in preparing the question paper.

The meeting was chaired by vice-chancellor Prof Rajesh Kumar Verma and several deans and other academicians took part.

Student organisations ABVP and NSUI had raised the issue which forced the varsity to take action against the teacher.

Crackers burst to celebrate Operation Sindoor

FP News Service
Jabalpur

Activists of Hindu Seva Parishad celebrated action of Indian Army against terrorism by bursting firecrackers at Vande Mataram Chowk on Wednesday.

Fifteen days after the Pahalagam terrorist attack, the Indian Army conducted an air strike. Under Operation Sindoor, several terrorist locations in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir were attacked, with reports of many terrorists being killed.



The activists stated that Pakistan's cowardly act of carrying out a terrorist attack in Pahalagam 15 days ago has

been met with this small 'trailer' shown by the Indian Armed Forces.

Organisation president

Work of shifting towers in Sheopur dist completed

FP News Service
Jabalpur

The modification and shifting work of towers in the 132 kV Sheopur-Sabalgarh Tap-Khandar (Rajasthan) double circuit inter-state transmission line in the Seep River area of Sheopur district, affected by the devastating floods in 2021, has been successfully completed.

This work was undertaken with the objective of strengthening and securing the power transmission system during disasters like floods.

Under this, the foundations of the old towers were reconstructed using special modern technology, and some towers were relocated to safer spots near the river and newly constructed.

The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 7.9 million.

The six new towers constructed by Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company (MP Transco) are based on specially designed foundations, capable of withstanding the impact of future disasters like floods.

This project will not only strengthen the state's power system but also serves as a testament to effective disaster management and robust in-

frastructure. He appreciated the efforts of MP Transco. Superintending Engineer Arvind Sharma from MP Transco, Gwalior, informed that the 132 kV Shivpuri-Sabalgarh Tap-Khandar transmission line was damaged due to the 2021 floods and dam overflow, resulting in disrupted power supply and affecting inter-state power exchange. To prevent such issues in the future, MP Transco reconstructed, modified, and relocated the towers using special open cast foundation technology. Sharma also stated that, considering the risk of waterlogging in the Seep River, the height of the towers in Kotra village of Manpur tehsil has been increased.



WCD dept's directive on sexual harassment at workplace

FP News Service
Jabalpur

The district office of Women and Child Development Department has issued directives to all institution include government and private for reconstitution of internal committees under provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013, in all workplaces where the number of employees is ten or above.

District Programme Officer Manish Seth said institutions

including all government, semi-government and private institutions, offices, undertakings, societies, shops, banks and financial institutions, educational and training institutes, enterprises, entertainment establishments, government and private hospitals, stadiums and sports institutions, rest houses and malls, factories and construction sites, etc.

It is mandatory to reconstitute the existing Internal Committees in workplaces where 10 or more officers or employees are working, including both officers and employees, and whose tenure of 3 years

has been completed, for another term of 3 years, he said.

The District Programme Officer stated that in case of non-constitution of the committee at any workplace, there is provision for a fine of 750,000 to be imposed on the employer as per norms.

The internal committee will consist of at least four members, including the presiding officer who must be a woman working at a senior level in the office.

If no senior female employee is working at the workplace, a female employee from

another office or unit of the same employer or department will be nominated.

Two members of the Internal Committee will also be from the concerned workplace.

These members can be male or female and should be committed to women's issues or have experience in social work or legal knowledge.

In addition to these, one member will be from non-governmental organisations working in the social sector, who has knowledge of the Act and is sensitive to women's issues.

PANCHANG 8.5.2025 (UTTARAYAN)

Saka 1947 Samvat 2082

Month : Vaishakh Shukla 11 Thursday 12.30 PM

Nakshatra : Uttara 9.06 P.M. then Hest

Yoga : Hansa 1.57 A.M. then Vajra

Karan : Bay 1.42 A.M. then Kadav

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CHHATARPUR
Short circuit sparks fire in Chhatarpur, 9 shops gutted

A midnight fire, sparked by a transformer short circuit at the Number Two Bus Stand, reduced nine shops to ashes, causing losses estimated at Rs 50-60 lakh. No casualties were reported. Fire control was delayed due to non-functional municipal fire engines, forcing reliance on smaller units from nearby towns. MLA Lalita Yadav visited the site, promising Rs 25,000 aid per affected shopkeeper. Locals criticized the fire brigade's negligence, while officials have begun assessing damage and relief measures.

SAGAR
Mock disaster drill held at BPCL Agasaud

A mock disaster drill was conducted at BPCL Agasaud, Bina, under the supervision of Collector Sandeep G R. The exercise aimed to test and improve disaster preparedness, simulating a chemical accident scenario. Emergency response teams practiced containment measures using in-house resources like water sprays, chemical neutralizers, and medical support. The drill evaluated coordination among industry staff, safety officials, and environmental authorities. Gaps in response were noted for future improvements, reinforcing the district's disaster management strategy.

ANUPPUR
MB Power's 1600 MW expansion gains public support

MB Power's proposed 1600 MW thermal power expansion received strong local support during a public hearing by the MP Pollution Control Board. Held at Government College, Laharpur, and the hearing saw villager's voice conditional support. Praising job prospects but also raising environmental concerns. Company officials assured adherence to norms and commitment to social investment. Political leaders from both BJP and Congress endorsed the 2x800 MW coal-based projects, marking a key step forward.

Fine imposed on 15 FP shops in absence of KYC work

Schore: Sub-divisional officer Tanmay Verma has imposed a fine of Rs 30,000 on 15 fair price shops for neglecting the KYC of the recipients of food grains. He also suspended the licence of another shop. The food and civil supplies department is carrying out the process for completing the KYC of beneficiaries. Collector K Balaguru has directed the officials to complete the KYC by May 15. But the fair price shops have not completed KYC of many beneficiaries. The officials are uploading Aadhaar and other ID proofs on the portal. Verma suspended the licence of a fair price shop in Daulatpura village. Assistant district civil supplies officer Akash Chandel said the fair prices neglected the KYC work. The administration imposed a fine on such shops.

MP win six gold in mallakhamb, shooting

State 3rd in medal tally with 14 medals

Our Staff Reporter

Players from Madhya Pradesh won a total of 11 medals including 6 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze at Khelo India Youth Games 2025 on Wednesday.

Mallakhamb players won 4 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medals. Devendra Patidar of Madhya Pradesh won 3 gold medals in All Round Individual Boys' Category, Pole Mallakhamb Individual Boys' Category, Hanging Mallakhamb Individual Boys' Category and silver in Rope Mallakhamb Individual Boys' Category.

In the All Round Individual Girls' Category, Siddhi Gupta won the gold medal. In the

MP BOARD EXAMS | All on cloud nine
Navankur's students bring laurels to school

FP News Service
GANJ BASODA

A student of Navankur Riya Patwa has got the fifth position in the Class 12 examinations conducted by the MP Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE). Priya is a student of biology group. She secured 479 out of 500. Palak Raghuvanshi of the same school got the third position in the district merit list. She is from the mathematics

Balaghat students excel

Balaghat: A student from Balaghat district Nitisha Deshmukh has got sixth position in the class 12 examination. Nitisha, a student of MCS Higher Secondary School got 97.2 marks from the mathematics stream to secure the sixth position in the state merit list. Similarly, Prerna Narsinghani, a student of Dada Badi Jain Higher Secondary School got the 10th position in the commerce stream. She secured 96.2% marks. Fiza Khan, a student of Government Excellence School got the fifth position in the state merit list. She secured 96% marks in agriculture. Subhani Bahetwar, a student of government MLB Kanya higher secondary school got the 9th position in the merit list. She secured 95% marks from the biology stream. Shubham Nageshwar, a student of CM Rise School in Kaganti got 94.8% marks. He got the tenth position in the state merit list from the biology stream. Nearly 88.07% of students passed the class 10 examinations conducted by the MP Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE).

Visually challenged students pass with flying colours

Narmadapuram: The visually challenged students of a special residential school near Rasuliya Road at the Bhopal tri-section excelled in Class 10 and Class 12 examinations conducted by the MP Board of Secondary Education. Rashmi Kakodia got the first position in the class 10 examination with 72.6% marks. Reena Uike got 60% to secure the second position. The third place went to Meena Uike. She got 60.2% marks.

stream. She got 475 out of 500. Two students from the commerce stream Jyoti Rajput and Shivang Gupta got 474 out of 500 and got the first position in the school. Kashish Raghuvanshi got the first position in the school in agriculture science by securing 470 out of 500.

Similarly, a student of Dolphin Akshat Raghuvanshi got the second position in the district merit list securing 489 out of 500.

Students of Hope India Girls School shine



Sant Hirdaram Nagar: The students of Hope India Girls School, Gandhi excelled in the class 10 and class 12 examinations of the MP Board of Secondary Education. Nearly 96 students passed the class 10 examination with first class. Nineteen students got more than 90%. Divyansh Vaswani and Bhumika Saini jointly got 95.2% marks. They stood first in the school in the class 10 examinations. Disha Verma got the second position with 94.2% marks. Eighty-four students of class 12 passed from science and commerce stream of the school. Thirteen students got more than 90%. Many Lodhi of science stream got 93.6% and stood first in the school. Bhumika Jat got 92.2% and secured position. Diksha Rajani got 94.8% of marks and stood first in the corner stream. Muskan Sahu got the second position with 94.4% marks.

In class 12 examinations, Nikita Malviya got the first position with 81.6% marks. Ayushi Sarathe got 74.6% marks, and Gayatri Malaiya got 79.4%. Shubhash Katore obtained 70.4% marks, and Leela Parachi secured 74.6%. Similarly, Vipasha Uike obtained 72.6%. Director of the school Ashish Chatterjee and Subhashish Chatterjee congratulated the students. They also greeted the teachers who guided the students.

CM's in principle approval for Rs 502 cr development work in mining districts

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday gave in principle consent for different development works to be done through Rs 502 crore received from mining institutions in the mining districts of the state. Yadav was reviewing the mining department's work at

the Mantralaya. Through this decision, development works can be done in Dindori, Shahdol, Anuppur, Badwani, Damoh, Chhindwara, Seoni, Alirajpur, Sagar, Betul, and Rewa.

He underlined that funds collected under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) constitute a reserve fund and should be used exclusively for

permanent, durable works that serve public interest and benefit the maximum number of people in mining-affected areas.

The DMF fund will be used for only concrete, long-lasting projects, such as the construction of school buildings, hospitals, community centres, dispensaries, veterinary hospitals, and sports grounds.

BOB announces financial results

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Bank of Baroda announced financial results for the quarter & financial year ended March 31 this year. The Bank's Global Business has crossed a milestone of Rs 27 lakh crore as of 31st March 2025. Standalone net profit rises to all-time high of Rs 19,581 crore in FY25, 10.1%

growth YoY. Bank's organic Retail Advances grew by 19.4%, driven by strong growth across segments such as Auto Loan (20.3%), Mortgage Loan (18.9%), Home Loan (17.3%), Education Loan (15.9%), Share of Retail, Agri Loans and MSME loans (RAM) in advances improved by 190 bps YoY to 59.6%. RAM portfolio grew by 17.5% in FY25.

Sagar to become water-rich region: Deputy CM Shukla

FP News Service
SAGAR

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla on Wednesday said the goal was to transform Sagar into a water-abundant region so that it could live up to its name. It will be made possible under Jal Ganga Sanvadhan Abhiyan, which is meant for revitalising old water sources and promoting conservation efforts across Madhya Pradesh.

Speaking at a pond renovation event in Bina, Shukla praised the efforts of Sagar collector Sandeep GR for removing encroachments and securing over 80 hectares of pond land through boundary construction and legal registration.

Shukla highlighted the state's commitment to healthcare as well, announcing recruitment for 30,000 health workers, including 3,000 doctors, to strengthen



services under Nirogi Kaya Abhiyan.

He spoke on the need to elevate the health department to the level of the agriculture sector, adding that the government lacked neither resources nor resolve.

MLA Nirmala Sapre stressed on revival of stepwells, rivers, and ponds, and

urged communities to adopt rainwater harvesting and recharge pit construction. Sagar currently ranks sixth in the campaign, and the officials aim to make it the top-performing district.

Public awareness and collective effort were underscored as crucial to achieving water security in every village of the region.

19 DSPs now part of state police



1st batch of DSPs trained under new criminal law

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

The parade of probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) of 43rd batch was held on Madhya Pradesh Police Academy parade ground on Wednesday. In all, 19 probationers took part in the parade. Now, they have be-

come part of Madhya Pradesh Police.

State DGP Kailash Makwana who was the chief guest said the newly inducted DSPs were placed on the job across state where senior officials informed them about their work. According to Makwana, they are the first batch of DSPs who have been trained under new criminal law. Out of 19 DSPs, seven are women.

The DGP felicitated new DSPs Anand Rai and Sujet Kumar Kadve for obtaining first and second position in outdoor training.

Chhatarpur's Kranti in Indian women's cricket team

Leaves for Sri Lanka to take part in 3-nation tourney

FP News Service
CHHATARPUR

A girl from the Ghuwara area in Chhatarpur, Kranti Gaur, has become a member of the national women's cricket team.

Twenty-one-year-old Kranti performed outstandingly for UP Warriors in the Women's Premier League. BCCI has selected her for the Sri Lanka tour. She got information about her selection on Monday night. She then left for Sri Lanka via Mumbai.

Her friends and coach congratulated Kranti for her selection. She began to play cricket at the age of 14.

President of the Chhatarpur Cricket Association Vinay Chourasia noticed her talents.

Kranti has been very active



on the field since the beginning of her career as a cricketer, said Rajiv Bilthare, her coach. Bilthare told her father to leave Kranti to him for coaching. Bilthare taught her everything about cricket.

Kranti is the youngest of her six siblings. Her family helped her to become a cricketer.

She began to play with a leather ball for the first time in 2017. She led the U-16 girls' team of the Sagar division in 2018-19. The Sagar team reached the finals of the tournament under her captaincy.

UP Warriors hired her for the Women's Premier League for Rs 10 lakh.

She took five wickets in five matches. Kranti took 15 wickets in nine matches in the senior women's one-day trophy.

She will represent the Indian women's team in the three-nation one-day tournament in Sri Lanka. The other nation participating in the tournament is South Africa.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd Office Number 201-B, 2nd Floor, Road No. 1 (Plot No.-B3, WIRI IT Park, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane (West)- 400604
The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.
Sincerely Authorised Signatory, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Shiv Das Sharma & Pushpo Sharma- LBJBL00005783947	Property Address 1- Plot No. L-26, Chaitanya City, Phase II, Part II, Near Bilheri, Kharsa No. 321, Old Ph No. 27 New Ph No. 10, NB No. 505, Virangana Rani Avanti Bai Ward No. 67, Mouja Kajarwara, Tehsil Ranjhi, Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur-482002, Property Address 2: Plot No. L-27, Chaitanya City, Phase II, Part II, Near Bilheri, Kharsa No. 321, Old Ph No. 27 New Ph No. 10, NB No. 505, Virangana Rani Avanti Bai Ward No. 67, Mouja Kajarwara, Tehsil Ranjhi, Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur-482002/ May 03, 2025	January 27, 2025 Rs. 35,21,344.22/-	Jabalpur

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount. The mortgage properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: May 08, 2025, Place: Jabalpur

FORM IV PUBLICATION
(See Sub Rule 2(a) of Rule 5) **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**
2 nd & 3rd Floor, Sanchar Vikash Bhawan BSNL Building Near Head Post Office Residency Road, Jabalpur (Areas for Jurisdiction- Madhya Pradesh)
(Summons under Sub-Section (4) Section 19 of the Act, read with Sub Rule 2 A) of Rule 5 of Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 913/2021
Axis Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
VERSUS
M/s Harsha Sales & Others ...Defendants
1. M/s. Harsha Sales Through its Proprietor- Mrs. Mamta Agrawal W/o Radheshyam Agrawal 16, Khanda Road, Sanawad, District - Indore (MP)
2. Mrs. Mamta Agrawal W/o Radheshyam Agrawal, Proprietor - M/s Harsha Sales H. No. 33, Bundala, Road, Sanawad, Tehsil - Barwah, District - Khargone (MP)
3. Radheshyam Agrawal S/o Badi Prasad Agrawal, H. No. 33, Bundala, Road, Sanawad, Tehsil - Barwah, District - Khargone (MP)
WHEREAS, OA No. 913/2021 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 10.03.2022. Whereas, the Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you recovery of debts of Rs. 1,57,42,985.39/- (Application along with copies of documents etc. annexed) In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you the defendants are directed as under :-
1. To show summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.
2. To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under Serial No. 3A of the Original Application.
3. You are restrained from dealing without disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under Serial No. 3A of the Original Application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties.
4. You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under Serial Number 3A of the Original Application without the prior approval of the Tribunal.
5. You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank of financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
6. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof of furnished to the applicant and to appear before Ld Registrar at 10.06.2025, 11:00 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, this 03.05.2025.
Authorized Officer

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/28, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. Branch Office: Plot No.131/01, Ground Floor, MP Nagar Zone-2, Bhopal (M.P.)-462011.
E-AUCTION NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISOR RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.
The undersigned as authorised officer of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited has taken possession of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction) of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date, Time & Place for Submission of Bid
1	45579420000030	1) Mr. Shiv Singh Dohare, S/o. Ramprakash Dohare, 2) Mrs. Reena Dohare, W/o. Shiv Singh Dohare, 3) Mr. Pradeep Dhanawat, S/o. Ramesh Chandra	29.02.2024	12.12.2024	Rs. 12,10,946.31/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six and Thirty One Paise Only) as of 03.05.2025	10.05.2025 09.00 AM to 05.30 PM	Rs. 8,02,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Two Thousand Only)	Rs.80,200/- (Rupees Eighty Thousand Two Hundred Only)	27.05.2025 @ 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM	26.05.2025 before 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, Plot No.131/01, Ground Floor, MP Nagar Zone-2, Bhopal (M.P.) -462011
Property Description/ Schedule: All that piece and parcel of land bearing residential Plot No.04 (EWS-04), total admeasuring area of 360 Sq.ft. (33.45 Sq.mtrs.), together with construction thereon, being part of land Revenue Survey No.3/1/11/3/7/1, 3/1/1/1, 3/7/2, 3/1/1/13/7/3, 3/1/1/13/7/4, New Kharsa No.21 & 22, situated at Kanha Kunj Phase-2, Village Akbarpur, Ward No.83, Tehsil Huzur & District Bhopal (M.P.). Bounded by: East by: Property No.09, West by: Colony Road, North by: Property No.05 and South by: Property No.03.										
2	31209430000226 & 31209430000545	1) Mr. Anand Upadhyay, S/o. Krishan Kumar Upadhyay, 2) Mrs. Gayatri Devi, W/o. Krishan Kumar Upadhyay, 3) Mrs. Utkarsha Upadhyay, W/o. Anand Upadhyay	10.04.2023	12.07.2023	Rs. 28,69,031/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Thirty One Only) as of 03.05.2025	10.05.2025 09.00 AM to 05.30 PM	Rs. 15,39,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Only)	Rs.1,53,900/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Only)	27.05.2025 @ 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM	26.05.2025 before 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, Plot No.131/01, Ground Floor, MP Nagar Zone-2, Bhopal (M.P.) -462011
Property Description/ Schedule: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Corporation House No.430 (Old), New House No.907, total admeasuring area 540 Sq.ft. (50.18) Sq.mtrs., Constructed on Nazul Plot No.71/2, Nazul Block No.04, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ward, Natibaba Ki Gali, Jabalpur, Tehsil & District Jabalpur (M.P.). Bounded by: East by: 5 Ft. Road, West by: House of Jagdish Barman, North by: House of Kedar Agarwal and South by: House of Gopal Prasad.										

The properties are being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" & "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and the E-Auction will be conducted 'On Line'. All payments relating to purchase of above said property to be made in favour of Jana Small Finance Bank. The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s. 4 Closure at the web portal <https://bankauctions.in> & www.foreclosureindia.com. For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Vikas Ketele, Contact Number: 8712637550. Email id: info@bankauctions.in / vikas@bankauctions.in. For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and for any query relating to property please contact Jana Small Finance Bank officers Mr. Ajay Naik (Mob. No.9960948687) & Mr. Mahendra Bramhane (Mob. No.9029290202). To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagee are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 08.05.2025, Place: Bhopal & Jabalpur
Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

Briefs

AGRA Police personnel suspended

Four police personnel in Muzaffarnagar were suspended for allegedly coercing a temple Mahant to give large sums of money. The Mahant had filed a complaint with SSP Abhishek Singh, providing call recordings as evidence. A preliminary inquiry was ordered, and further action will be taken against guilty officers. Mahant Sukhram of the Nath sect's Shiva temple in Harsauli filed a complaint on Sunday with SSP Abhishek Singh, prompting an investigation.

PRAYGRAJ UP board penalize absent teachers

The Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Board is investigating around 30,000-35,000 teachers who skipped evaluation duties despite serving as room invigilators during exams. The board will take strict action against those found guilty, including possible registration of criminal cases. Approximately 1,48,667 teachers were appointed as evaluators for the evaluation of about 2.84 crore answer sheets across 261 centres.

AGRA DRDO develops parachutes

The Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) in Agra has developed a parachute system for the Gaganyaan programme's uncrewed mission. The system comprises 10 parachutes designed for sequential deployment to ensure the safe return of the astronaut-carrying capsule. The parachutes have cleared sub-level testing and will be used for the mission.

KAUSHAMBI Jail sets up open-air gym

Kaushambi district jail has launched an open-air gym to promote physical health and well-being among its over 800 inmates and jail staff. The initiative is part of a state government project to set up open gyms in all 75 jails across Uttar Pradesh. Over 800 inmates lodged at the Kaushambi district jail will benefit from yoga, physical training, skill development, literacy, and other activities.

PILIBHIT Man kills injured leopardess

Wildlife activists have raised concerns over the delay in action against a man who allegedly assaulted an injured leopardess with an axe in Pilibhit. Despite video evidence, activists accuse the forest department of inaction and allege the accused is being protected. They accused the Pilibhit forest division of inaction and wrote to UP's principal chief conservator of forest (Wildlife), Anuradha Vemuri, while also filing complaints via the CM's grievance portal.

SHAHJAHANPUR 6-year-old raped at wedding

A six-year-old girl was allegedly raped by an unidentified person during a wedding ceremony in Shahjahanpur district. The girl was found covered in blood after going missing during the event. Police have registered a case and formed teams to identify and arrest the accused.

STF RETALIATION | City witnesses patriotic fervour following India's POK airstrike Operation sindoor: “Ye Hai Naya Bharat, Ghar Mein Ghuske Marega”

Hasan Zaidi LUCKNOW

Following the Indian Air Force's targeted airstrike in Pakistan occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor, Lucknow erupted in spontaneous celebrations, alongside state organized emergency preparedness drills. The airstrike, seen as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack, triggered widespread patriotic displays and mock readiness exercises across the city.

Residents took to the streets waving the tricolour, chanting slogans such as “Indian Army Zindabad.” At prominent spots like Aminabad, Chowk, and the 1090 crossing, traders and citizens distributed sweets and raised slogans in support of the armed forces. Organizations such as the Adarsh Vyapar Mandal and Hindu outfits led solidarity marches, displaying banners like “Ye Naya Bharat Hai Ghar Mein Ghuske Marega.”

Amid celebrations, civil defence teams conducted coordinated mock drills to simulate



air raid scenarios. Sirens sounded throughout the police line precincts, initiating black-out rehearsals. Civilians, including schoolchildren, were instructed to lie on the ground and cover their ears in

response to simulated bombings. Emergency protocols included firefighting demos and triage for mock casualties, with ambulance evacuations enacted in real-time. Muslim religious leaders welcomed the

strike. Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali and Maulana Yasooob Abbas praised the operation, calling it a fitting response to terrorism. “The whole world was watching; India responded decisively,”

said Abbas. Mock drills were also held at Darul Uloom Firangi and Lucknow University, where NCC cadets and students learned wartime safety procedures. At the Charbagh railway station, high

Red alert in UP after operation sindoor

A red alert has been declared across Uttar Pradesh following Operation Sindoor, in which Indian forces struck terror camps in Pakistan and PoK. In view of potential retaliatory threats, all UP Police field units have been ordered to intensify surveillance and coordinate with defence forces. Security has been tightened around key infrastructure, religious sites, and public gatherings as precautionary measures. Authorities remain on high alert to prevent any untoward incident.

DGP Prashant Kumar

My entire family had full faith our forces

“I want to thank Prime Minister Modi, the ministers, and the heads of the armed forces including the Air Force and the Army Chief for avenging my husband's death in the Pahalgam terror attack.” “I and my entire family had full faith in Prime Minister Modi and our armed forces, and the way they attacked the terrorist structures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has reinforced our faith.”

Ashanya wife of martyr Shubham Dwivedi

alert was declared, with DRM-level inspections carried out on ticket counters and platforms. Minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal echoed public sentiment, stating, “We don't provoke, but we won't tolerate provocation.” As Lucknow oscillated between

vigilance and celebration, Operation Sindoor marked both a geopolitical statement and a moment of national unity. The city's response, marked by drills and discipline reflected a new phase of civil-military synergy.

Six of family killed in Jalaun crash

UP State Bureau JALAUN

A devastating road accident on NH-27 near Girthan village in Jalaun claimed six lives early Wednesday morning. A car carrying eight members of a family from Bahraich collided head-on with an oncoming truck after breaking the road divider around 5:30 am.

The deceased include Dr. Brijesh from Motipur, his wife Preeti, son Attashay, daughters Manvi and Siddika, and sister-in-law Sangeeta. Two others Dr. Brijesh's daughter Manda and Sangeeta's husband Ankit were critically injured and referred to Kanpur after initial treatment in the district hospital. Manvi died en route to Kanpur.

“Those who touched sindoor face erasure”



UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said “those who tried to touch the sindoor of India's daughters lost their bloodlines.” His remarks came while praising the military response to the recent Pahalgam terror attack during an emergency preparedness mock drill in Lucknow. Calling the Army's action “decisive,” the CM



UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

asserted that Operation Sindoor symbolised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's and the Indian Armed Forces' deep commitment to protecting women and the country's dignity. “No one will be allowed to tamper with the pride of the nation,” Yogi stated. He issued a stern warning that conspirators against Bharat Mata will face consequences. “The country comes first. Every locality, village, and city must be ready to respond when



UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

national security is threatened,” he said. Yogi also urged greater public participation in disaster and security response. “Not just NCC, Home Guards, or Scouts—every citizen must engage with security agencies and understand their responsibilities,” he added. The CM expressed gratitude to the three armed forces, PM Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and the Union Cabinet, offering condolences for those martyred in Pahalgam.



UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

Held at the Reserve Police Lines, the mock drill simulated enemy airstrikes and included coordinated responses from NDRF, SDRF, fire services, and medical teams. Citizens were taught how to shelter, treat the injured, and manage chemical threats. Minister Suresh Khanna, Home Secretary Sanjay Prasad, DGP Prashant Kumar, ADG Amitabh Yash, Commissioner Amarendra Sengar, and DM Vishakha G were among those present.

UP extends food licensing drive

UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has extended its ongoing statewide food registration and licensing campaign till May 31. Led by the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA), the drive aims to bring all food business operators, from vendors to restaurants, under legal compliance.

Launched in April following Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive, the campaign mandates that every food business in the state must hold a valid registration or license under the Food Safety and Standards Act. Special camps are being held in every district to facilitate documentation. Food Safety Officers are conducting outreach and spot registration to ensure broad coverage. However, the government acknowledges that despite previous campaigns, large

All UP food businesses required to register by May 31 deadline

sections of the informal food sector remain unregistered, highlighting gaps in sustained monitoring. The FSDA has warned of strict enforcement after the May 31 deadline. The campaign includes awareness drives, compliance checks, and on-ground assistance for business owners. Though the CM has emphasized zero tolerance toward non-compliance, critics argue that periodic crackdowns alone may not build long-term adherence without addressing manpower constraints and lack of digital access in rural belts. Authorities state the campaign is intended not only for regulation but also to safeguard public health through clean, accountable food practices statewide.

Knife attack over sindoor talk

UP State Bureau SHAHJAHANPUR

In a disturbing incident in Shahjahanpur's Powayan, 12-year-old Surjeet, son of Lalbahadur from Dharmgadpur Khurd, was attacked with a knife by a man who grew agitated during a conversation about India's Operation Sindoor.

The attacker, reportedly from Katra Bazaar locality, also shouted pro-Pakistan slogans in the crowded vegetable market before being caught and handed over to police by bystanders.

The man's violent reaction appears rooted in personal instability and does not reflect the sentiments of any particular community.

25 lakh new farmers to get Kisan credit cards in UP soon

UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

In a major push to boost agricultural income and make farming more profitable, the Uttar Pradesh government under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is set to expand the reach of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. For the financial year 2025-26, the state aims to provide KCCs to 25 lakh new farmers, ensuring easier access to timely and affordable credit. The initiative builds on the success of the previous year, where over 71 lakh farmers across the state were issued Kisan Credit Cards. To meet the new target, the state has directed all Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates to expedite the registration and distribution process.



Yogi government issues credit cards to over 71 lakh farmers in just one year

The government is prioritizing Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana beneficiaries for inclusion in the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. With support from cooperative and commercial banks, the distribution process is being fast-tracked to ensure wider outreach. The Government of

India has also instructed all eligible farmers to be connected with KCCs to help them access crop loans and related financial services. The aim is to eliminate the need for farmers to rely on informal moneylenders by providing institutional credit at low interest rates. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emphasized the need to transform agriculture into a profitable venture and uplift the standard of living in rural areas. The KCC scheme plays a key role in this mission by offering timely financial support to farmers and reinforcing the state's commitment to a self-reliant and prosperous agrarian economy. Under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, there has been an increase in the distribution of crop loans.

shaktirise

Minister Danish hails 'Operation Sindoor'

UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

Lucknow witnessed emotional scenes of unity and patriotism on Wednesday as students and teachers of Darul Uloom Farangi Mahal gathered at Aishbagh Eidgah to cheer the Indian Army's precision strikes under Operation Sindoor. The air resounded with slogans of “Hindustan Zindabad” and “Indian Army Zindabad,” as they waved the national flag in support of the armed forces.

The operation, carried out in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, targeted nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and PoK. According to reports, several militants were neutralized.

Uttar Pradesh targets eco-religious tourism boom

UP State Bureau LUCKNOW

The UP government is moving ahead with plans to establish the state as a key eco and religious tourism hub, with projects underway in Lakhimpur Kheri to support both nature tourism and cultural engagement. Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, infrastructure will be developed near Chandan Chowki and Sharda Barrage to support tent cities, water sports, eco lodges, and immersive experiences centered around the Tharu community. Two new hubs will

Eco lodges, glamping, water sports planned near Dudhwa, Sharda Barrage

cater to visitors of Dudhwa National Park and Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary. Cultural performances, homestays, and exhibitions will offer tourists deeper insight into Tharu life. The initiative is part of the state's broader tourism policy, which includes the Ramayana and Buddhist circuits and the 'One District, One Destination' scheme.

India's daughters: The strength Pakistan can never comprehend

Pankaj Srivastava LUCKNOW

In the early hours of Wednesday, what the world witnessed wasn't merely an airstrike, it was a clear declaration of India's strategic might, unwavering vision, and iron-clad resolve. But what made this operation historic was not just its execution, it was the leaders behind it. This time, India's daughters led from the front not just as participants, but as commanding architects of the mission.

Women Behind the Strike Colonel Sophia Qureshi



Colonel Sophia Qureshi



Wing Commander Vyomika Singh

A name that resonates with pride across the Indian Armed Forces. She became the first Indian woman to lead an international military exercise, commanding troops from 18 different nations during the prestig-

ious 'Force 18' drills. Today, she stands as the strategic backbone of Operation Sindoor, a mission that shook Pakistan's defense structure to its core. Her leadership, vision, and grit played a pivotal role in

Not Just an Airstrike, A Declaration of Power, Vision, and Resolve

the operation's success. Wing Commander Vyomika Singh A fearless officer in the Indian Air Force, Wing Commander Singh isn't just known for flying fighter jets she's known for leading them in complex missions with unflinching precision. Her aerial combat expertise and tactical

command turned the tide of Operation Sindoor, proving that the skies are no longer male territory they belong to every Indian who dares, especially our daughters.

India vs Pakistan: A Contrast in Mindset

In India, we entrust daughters with borders, commands, and national strategy. In Pakistan, women still struggle to access basic education, let alone enter the military. In India, a woman commands troops from 18 countries. In Pakistan, a man's silence is valued more than a woman's voice. That is the difference. One nation

This is India

- Where daughters don't just dream they achieve.
- Where they don't just march they lead.
- Where they don't just guard the borders they become the shield of the nation.

As the world watches, India's daughters are proving that strength isn't always measured in missiles and machines sometimes, it's measured in courage, competence, and commitment.

empowers its daughters. The other hides them behind curtains.

India's daughters are no longer bound by societal chains they're now breaking barriers,

commanding missions, and scripting history. This isn't just a moment of pride; it's a message to the world a country that trusts its women can never be defeated.



105.71 pts



34.80 pts



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₹1000



₹440

SENSEX 80,746.78 | NIFTY 24,414.40 | USD/INR 84.77 | GOLD 1,00,750.00 | SILVER 98,940.00

Briefs

BSE, NSE curb overseas access to websites

Amid India launching mis-
sile attacks on Pakistan
and Pakistan-occupied
Kashmir, leading stock
exchanges BSE and NSE
have taken precautionary
measures by blocking their
websites for international
users, sources said. "BSE,
being a critical market
infrastructure institution
(MII), proactively and con-
tinuously monitors risks at
domestic and international
levels for potential cyber
threats," a BSE spokesper-
son said, explaining the
rationale behind the deci-
sion.

SAT rejects Gensol plea to stay SEBI order

The Securities Appellate
Tribunal on Wednesday
rejected an appeal by
Gensol Engineering Ltd to
stay a SEBI interim order
barring it and its pro-
moters Anmol Singh Jaggi
and Puneet Singh Jaggi
over the issue of fund
diversion and governance
concerns. The bench of
the appellate tribunal
comprising Justice P.S.
Dinesh Kumar and techni-
cal member Meera
Swarup have given the
company two weeks to
reply to the SEBI on the
temporary ex-parte order
and directed the markets
regulator to give a final
order in Gensol's case
within four weeks.

UK FTA: Goyal, exporters to meet on May 8

Commerce and Industry
Minister Piyush Goyal will
meet representatives of
export promotion councils
(EPCs) here on May 8 to
discuss matters related to
the free trade agreement
with the UK, an industry
official said on
Wednesday.

RBI recognises FIMMDA as SRO

The Reserve Bank on
Wednesday said it has re-
cognised the Fixed Income
Money Market and
Derivatives Association of
India (FIMMDA) as an SRO
in financial markets regu-
lated by the central bank.
In August last year, the RBI
had issued the framework
for recognition of Self-
Regulatory Organisations
(SROs) in financial mar-
kets. The norms were
issued in view of the
potential role of SROs in
strengthening compliance
culture among their
members.

CCI issues norms to assess predatory pricing practices

Competition Commission
of India (CCI) has notified
the regulations for deter-
mining the cost of produc-
tion, a move that will help
the watchdog to more
effectively assess alleged
predatory pricing and
deep discounting prac-
tices especially in the
quick commerce and e-
commerce segments.

\$60-70/A BARREL | Upstream players' capex plans to remain intact Softening crude oil prices to reduce import bill by ₹1.8L cr

PTI
NEW DELHI

India, the world's third largest
oil importing and consuming
nation, is likely to save as much
as Rs 1.8 lakh crore on import
of crude oil and LNG if the
trend of softening interna-
tional energy rates continues,
Icra said Wednesday.

India, which meets over 85
per cent of its crude oil needs
through imports, spent USD
242.4 billion on buying crude
from overseas in the fiscal year
ended March 31, 2025. With
domestic production meeting
roughly half of the demand, it
also spent USD 15.2 billion on
import of liquefied natural gas
(LNG) in the fiscal.

Oil prices in international
markets fell to over four-year
low of USD 60.23 per barrel
earlier this week on fears of
rising global supply at a time
when demand outlook is
uncertain. Brent crude and US
West Texas Intermediate



crude, which fell to their
lowest since February 2021,
have since risen to USD 62.4 on
signs of more Europe and
China demand and less US
output. Still the rates are USD
20 per barrel lower than
March 2024 when petrol and
diesel prices were cut by Rs 2
per litre each ahead of general
elections.

"Icra expects average crude
prices for FY2026 (April 2025
to March 2026 fiscal year) to
remain in the USD 60-70 per
barrel range," the rating
agency said in a note.

At these levels, earnings of
upstream companies are esti-
mated at Rs 25,000 crore for
FY2026.

Upstream companies are
ones that produce crude oil.

"However, there would be
savings of Rs 1.8 lakh crore for
crude imports and Rs 6,000
crore for LNG imports," it said.

For fuel retailers, the mar-
keting margins on auto-fuels
will remain healthy, while LPG
under-recoveries are likely to
reduce, Icra said.

Uncertainty related to glo-
bal tariffs and their impact on

Earnings of upstream companies are estimated at ₹25,000 crore for FY2026, says ICRA

growth, coupled with an
announcement by OPEC+ to
steadily withdraw their pro-
duction cuts, starting with
411,000 barrels per day addi-
tion from May 2025 and
another 411,000 bpd from June
2025, have resulted in oil prices
declining from about USD 77 a
barrel as on March 31 to about
USD 60-62.

Stating that India meets a
large portion of its domestic
crude oil requirements
through imports, Icra said in
the scenario where crude
remains in USD 60-70 a barrel
range, the profit before tax for
upstream players in FY2026 is
expected to be lower by Rs
25,000 crore.

Gold rallies ₹1K to reclaim ₹1L/ 10g

PTI
NEW DELHI

Gold prices surged Rs 1,000 to
breach the crucial Rs 1 lakh
per 10 gram-mark in the
national capital on Wednesday
as escalating tensions between
India and Pakistan triggered a
safe-haven buying rush.

According to the All India
Sarafa Association, the
precious metal of 99.9 per cent
purity climbed Rs 1,000 to Rs
1,00,750 per 10 grams from
Tuesday's closing of Rs 99,750
per 10 grams.

In retaliation for the



Pahalgam terror attack, Indian
armed forces early on
Wednesday carried out mis-
sile strikes on nine terror tar-
gets in Pakistan and PoK,
including the Jaish-e-
Mohammad stronghold of
Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-
Taiba's base in Muridke.

Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per

cent purity jumped Rs 1,050 to
Rs 1,00,350 per 10 grams on
Wednesday. It had ended at Rs
99,300 per 10 grams in the pre-
vious market close.

The yellow metal had ear-
lier touched its lifetime high of
Rs 1,01,600 per 10 grams on
April 22, when it surged Rs
1,800.

In addition, silver prices also
rose Rs 440 to Rs 98,940 per
kg. The white metal had
settled at Rs 98,500 per kg on
Tuesday. In the international
markets, spot gold fell USD
62.12 or 1.8 per cent at USD
3,369.65 per ounce.

'FTA to help double garment exports to Britain in 3 yrs'

PTI
NEW DELHI

The free trade agreement
(FTA) with the UK will help
double India's ready-made
garment exports to Britain in
the next three years, AEP
said on Wednesday.

Apparel Export Promotion
Council (AEP) Chairman
Sudhir Sekhri said that against
the backdrop of demand con-
traction in major economies,

Russia-Ukraine conflict, Israel-
Hamas war, American reci-
procal tariff and Chinese bel-
ligerence, there was uncer-
tainty and disruption impact-
ing the global trade adversely.

"This deal has come as a
boon, removing immediately
tariff disadvantage of 9.6 per
cent and making us competi-
tive in the UK market. Now the
Made in India ready-made gar-
ment will be cheaper on UK
shelves and we will be at par

with some of our major com-
petitors who enjoyed duty-free
access in the UK market," he
said. India is the fourth largest
supplier of garments with a 6.1
per cent share of the total
RMG import of the UK.

The exports to the UK from
India grew 7.8 per cent to USD
1.4 billion in 2024-25. "With
this deal in place, India is all
poised to double the RMG
exports to the UK in the next
three years," he said.

RBI issues framework for new norms

Informist
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India on
Wednesday issued a frame-
work for formulation of regu-
lations, outlining the broad
principles it will follow while
making norms under various
laws and rules. "The
Framework reinforces and
demonstrates the Reserve
Bank's commitment to
enhanced transparency and
consultative approach for
issuance of Regulations," the
RBI said in a statement.

As per the framework, the
central bank will first publish
draft regulations, give at least
21 days for stakeholders and
the public to submit their com-
ments, provide a 'general state-
ment' of its response to the
comments received, and then
issue the final regulations.

Crisil report

Softer vegetable prices lower meal cost in Apr

PTI
NEW DELHI

Softer vegetable prices helped
in lowering the cost of home-
made meals in April this year,
a report said on Wednesday.

As per the "roti rice rate"
report prepared by an arm of
domestic rating agency Crisil,
the cost of a typical vegetarian
meal reduced 4 per cent year-
on-year and 1 per cent month-
on-month to Rs 26.3 in April.

The on-year fall in prices
was attributed to the sharp
decline in vegetable prices,
which included a 34 per cent



plummet in tomato, an 11 per
cent decrease in potato and a 6
per cent drop in onions.

A 19 per cent increase in
vegetable oil prices due to
higher import duties and a 6

per cent rise in LPG cylinder
prices limited the decline in
thali costs, the report said.

A non-vegetarian thali
declined by 4 per cent year-
on-year and 2 per cent month-

on-month to Rs 53.9 per plate,
it added.

Further, the report said that
the decline in the price of a
non-veg meal was influenced
by the softening of the veg-
etable prices and a dip in poul-
try prices, which was hit by
oversupply as bird flu in some
peninsular states impacted
demand.

"Going forward, wheat and
pulses prices are expected to
moderate amid strong
domestic output," said Pushan
Sharma, director of research at
Crisil Intelligence. "Edible oil
prices are also likely to soften

over the next 2-3 months as
global supplies pick up, mainly
from Argentina, Indonesia,
and Malaysia. Rice prices,
though, are expected to inch
up with a projected increase in
exports. And among veg-
etables, onion prices are likely
to be rangebound while tom-
ato prices are forecast to rise
on account of seasonality."

A vegetarian thali com-
prises roti, vegetables such as
onion, tomato, and potato,
rice, dal, curd, and salad. A
non-vegetarian thali has the
same elements except for dal,
which is replaced by chicken.

money

Bhopal, Thursday, May 8, 2025

US Fed holds rates steady

FPJ Business Desk
WASHINGTON / MUMBAI

The US Federal Reserve on
Wednesday held its key inter-
est rate unchanged as it waits
for the Donald Trump admin-
istration's trade policy to take
shape and sees its impact on a
sputtering economy.

Given uncertainty
sweeping the politi-
cal and economic
landscape, the
Federal Open
Market Committee
held its benchmark
overnight borrowing
rate in a range
between 4.25%-4.5%, where it
has been since December.

The post-meeting statement
noted the volatility and how it
is factoring into policy deci-
sions. "Uncertainty about the
economic outlook has
increased further," the state-
ment said. "The Committee is



attentive to the risks to both
sides of its dual mandate and
judges that the risks of higher
unemployment and higher
inflation have risen."

It added "economic activity
has continued to expand at a
solid pace" and the job market
remains "solid" while inflation
"remains somewhat
elevated." That
doesn't sound like a
Fed poised to lower
rates in the short
term. However, the
statement did not
address the tariffs,
though Chair
Jerome Powell

addressed the issue at his post-
meeting news meeting.

Stocks briefly ceded gains
after the rate announcement
but mostly recovered, with the
Dow Jones Industrial up 300
points despite some worries
over the Fed's characterisation
of the economic risks.

India to retaliate if UK's carbon tax hits exports

PTI
NEW DELHI

The India-UK free trade pact
has no provision to counter
Britain's proposed carbon tax,
but amid uncertainty and
absence of UK legislation, New
Delhi has preserved its right to
retaliate or rebalance conces-
sions, if future measures
impact domestic exports, an
official said. The UK govern-
ment in December 2023
decided to implement its
Carbon Border Adjustment
Mechanism starting 2027.

As per economic think tank
GTRI, India's exports worth
\$775 million to the UK may be
impacted due to its move to
introduce carbon tax on prod-
ucts such as iron and steel, alu-
minium, fertiliser and cement,
from 2027. The official said the
free trade pact with the UK
has no provisions to counter
CBAM, which has the poten-
tial to nullify the concessions
offered by Britain to India.

Investors chasing resilience, not dazzling short-term gains

OP SINDOOR IMPACT

FPJ News Service
MUMBAI

Intelligent investors on
Wednesday reconfirmed their
'mantra of chasing resilience',
and not dazzling short-term
returns. Indian investors have
been scrambling into havens
such as gold, and diversifying
investment portfolios by buy-
ing fundamentally strong
stocks after the markets started
witnessing massive FII outflow
from Jan-March.

During the first 3 months of
2025, FIIs have been big sellers.
Cumulatively FIIs sold equities
for nearly Rs 1.30 lakh crore
during this 3-month period.
Key indices Sensex and Nifty
settled higher on Wednesday
as India launched missile
strikes "Operation Sindoor" on
terrorist hideouts in Pakistan
and POK. The 30-share BSE



Sensex closed 105.71 pts higher
at 80,746.78. The Nifty 50
advanced by 34.80 pts to settle
at 24,414.40.

"Historical data suggests that
the Indian stock market has
generally responded with resil-
ience to serious geopolitical
events. Except for the
Parliament attack in 2001, all
other incidents led to positive
market returns over the
medium to long term," said
Abhishek Jaiswal, Fund
Manager at Finavenue.
"Mkts exhibited strong resil-

ience amid recent Indo-Pak
border tensions, the measured
market response indicated that
geopolitical risks were largely
priced in and expectations of
de-escalation are prevailing
among investors," said Vinod
Nair, Head of Research, at
Geojit Investments. "What
stands out in "Operation
Sindoor" from the market per-
spective is its focused and non-
escalatory nature. We have to
wait and watch how the enemy
reacts to these precision strikes
by India. The mkt is unlikely to
be impacted by the retaliatory
strike by India since that was
known and discounted by the
market. The main catalyst of
the market resilience in India is
the sustained FII buying of the
last 14 trading days which has
touched a cumulative figure of
Rs 43,940 crore in the cash
market," said Dr VK
Vijayakumar, Chief Investment
Strategist, at Geojit
Investments.

CCEA OKs revised SHAKTI scheme for allocation of coal to power plants

PTI
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on
Economic Affairs on
Wednesday approved the
revised Scheme for Harnessing
and Allocating Koyala
Transparently in India
(SHAKTI) for allocation of coal
to the power sector to help
them meet long-term and
short-term coal requirement.

The approval was given by
the Cabinet Committee on
Economic Affairs (CCEA)
chaired by the Prime Minister
Narendra Modi, in a move

aimed at simplification of the
linkage process.

The CCEA "has approved
grant of fresh coal linkages to
thermal power plants of cen-
tral sector/state sector/inde-
pendent power producers
(IPPs)," the coal ministry said
in a statement.

With the introduction of
Revised SHAKTI (Scheme for
Harnessing and Allocating
Koyala Transparently in India)
Policy, two windows --- coal
linkage to central gencos/states
at notified price and coal link-
age to all gencos at a premium
above notified price -- have

been proposed. The ministry
further said 'under coal at no-
tified price' segment the exist-
ing mechanism for grant of coal
linkage to central sector ther-
mal power projects (TPPs)
including JVs and their sub-
sidiary will continue.

Moreover, coal linkage ear-
marked to states may be uti-
lized by states in its own genco,
Independent Power Producers
(IPPs) to be identified through
Tariff-Based Competitive
Bidding (TBCB) or existing
IPPs having PPA for setting up
of a new expansion unit under
'coal at notified price' window.

Gilts up; India-Pak tensions seen ebbing after flare-up

Informist
NEW DELHI

Government bond prices
ended higher in the face of
continuous volatility after a
flare-up in tensions between
India and Pakistan on
Wednesday. Traders picked
up bonds on the hope that
there would be no further
escalation in tensions
between the two nuclear
powers, and looked ahead to
rate cuts in India, dealers said.

The 6.79%, 2034 bond
ended at INR 103.17, up from
INR 103.07 on Tuesday. The
10-year benchmark yield
ended at 6.34%, against 6.35%
on Tuesday. Price gains were
not significant as caution
about the geopolitical situ-
ation prevailed, though the
two-way trade led to a rise in
bond market volumes. Gilts
had fallen slightly for a few
minutes after opening flat,
before reversing losses.

SEBI says REITs, InvITs must declare quarterly results, tightens disclosures

Informist
NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange
Board of India Wednesday
amended the master circulars
governing Real Estate
Investment Trusts and
Infrastructure Investment
Trusts to declare financial
results every quarter. These
changes will come into effect in
the period started Apr. 1, the
regulator said in two circulars
uploaded on its website.

Earlier, these trusts had to
declare their financial infor-
mation only in half-yearly and
annual intervals. The quarterly
filings will have to be done
within 45 days of the end of the
quarter and the annual result
filing can be done within 60
days of the March quarter end-
ing, in line with other listed
entities.

"The InvIT shall submit
financial results in respect of
the last quarter along with the
results for the entire financial



year, with a note stating that
the figures of last quarter are
the balancing figures between
audited figures in respect of the
full financial year and the pub-
lished financial year to date figures upto
the third quarter of the current
financial year," SEBI said. The
same rule applies verbatim to
REITs. A statement of Net
Distributable Cash Flows will be
filed alongside the financial
results, the circulars said, and
the entity will disclose it in the
annual and half-yearly reports.
SEBI also added to the list of
disclosures the entities will
have to make, which will
include statements on assets
and liabilities, changes in
unitholders' equity, cash flows,
net assets at fair value and total
returns at fair value. These will
have to be made on a half-
yearly and annual basis only.

Briefs

Voltas Q4 profit more than doubles to ₹236 crore

Home appliances maker Voltas on Wednesday reported over twofold rise in net profit at Rs 236 crore for March quarter FY25 driven by higher revenues. It had posted a net profit of Rs 111 crore in the January-March period of the preceding 2023-24 financial year, the company said in a regulatory filing.

UBL Jan-Mar profit up 19.8% at ₹97.76 crore

Beer maker United Breweries Ltd (UBL) on Wednesday reported a 19.87 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 97.76 crore in the January-March quarter of 2024-25 compared to Rs 81.55 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago.

GreenLine partners with Shriram Fin

Essar group's green logistics solutions provider GreenLine Mobility Solutions has partnered with Shriram Finance for the deployment of a new fleet of LNG-powered trucks, a statement said on Wednesday. GreenLine Mobility Solutions on Wednesday flagged off a new fleet of LNG-powered trucks at Chakan, Pune, the statement said. The deployment is supported by Shriram Finance Ltd. GreenLine is an Essar venture and India's only green logistics operator of LNG and electric-powered heavy commercial trucks.

Solex Energy bags ₹451 cr order from KPI Green Energy

Solex Energy on Wednesday said it has secured a Rs 451.41 crore order from KPI Green Energy to supply solar modules. The modules will be used in KPI Green's GUVNL projects, part of their own Independent Power Producer (IPP) portfolio, a company statement said.

Mouri Tech files ₹1,500 cr IPO papers

IT Solutions and services firm Mouri Tech has refilled draft papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 1,500 crore through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). In its fresh Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filed on May 5, Mouri Tech proposed to raise Rs 250 crore through selling new shares, while promoters and a selling shareholder plan to sell stock to the tune of Rs 1,250 crore.

Welspun Corp bags ₹1,950 cr order

Homegrown Welspun Corp Ltd (WCL) has secured an export order worth Rs 1,950 crore for the supply of line pipes and bends. With these new orders, its current consolidated global order book stands at around Rs 19,300 crore, the company said.

Blue Ocean Corp hosts IPSC in Dubai

Blue Ocean Corporation, the world leader in supply chain consulting and training, hosted another edition of the International Procurement and Supply Chain Conference (IPSC) in Dubai. In a stirring address, Blue Ocean Director Board member and former Indian Cricket Captain Sourav Ganguly inspired the audience with his leadership insights focussing on the importance of teamwork.

TELECOM OPERATORS NET ADD 2.93 MN MOBILE USERS IN MAR

Informist
NEW DELHI



2.2 million mobile users in March compared with 1.77 million added in February. Bharti Airtel net added 1.25 million users in March, slightly lower than 1.59 million users added in February. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. showed improvement in March, with net addition of 49,177 users against a drop of 566,069 mobile users in February. Vodafone Idea lost

541,377 mobile users in March compared with a drop of 20,720 users in February.

Total mobile subscribers across India as on Mar. 31 were marginally higher on month at 1.16 billion. Within this, private companies maintained their market share at just over 92% and that of government-run BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. was 8%. Among the private companies, Reliance Jio improved its market share by 8 basis points on month to 40.60% in March. Bharti Airtel's market share was largely steady at 33.69% compared with 33.67% in February, while that of Vodafone Idea declined 9 bps to 17.75%.

Jio adds 21.4 lakh mobile users in March; Airtel gains 12.5 lakh

Reliance Jio cemented its lead in Indian telecom market adding 21.74 lakh wireless subscribers in March, while Bharti Airtel's monthly gains were at 12.50 lakh users, according to data released by telecom regulator TRAI on Wednesday.

Vodafone Idea lost 5.41 lakh mobile users from its network, and its subscriber base shrunk to 20.53 crore users.

As per the data, Jio's addition of 21.74 lakh wireless users during the month pushed up its subscriber count to 46.97 crore.

For Bharti Airtel, the mobile base expanded to 38.98 crore, with addition of 12.50 lakh users in March.

The urban mobile subscriptions fell 0.26 per cent while rural wireless count was up 0.92 per cent.

"Wireline subscribers increased from 36.91 million at the end of February-25 to 37.04 million at the end of March-25," TRAI release said pegging the monthly rate of growth at 0.37 per cent.

PNB Q4 PAT surges 52%

Plans to raise ₹8,000 cr via bonds in FY26

PTI
NEW DELHI

State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Wednesday reported 52 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 4,567 crore for March quarter FY25 helped by robust business growth and recovery. During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to Rs 36,705 crore from Rs 32,361 crore a year ago, PNB said in a regulatory filing.

Speaking to the media after the board meeting, PNB MD and CEO Ashok Chandra said the growth in profit can be attributed to overall business growth, recovery in technically written off accounts and treasury income, among others.

Chandra said the bank's capital adequacy ratio remains high at 17 per cent and therefore there is no need for equity capital during the current financial year.

However, the board approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 8,000 crore through issuance of Basel III-compliant bonds to be raised in one or more tranches during 2025-26.

Coal India Jan-Mar net profit rises 12% to ₹9,604 cr

PTI
NEW DELHI



Rs 41,761.76 crore from Rs 40,457.59 crore a year ago, the filing said.

The company said that the Ib Valley coal washery of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) with a capacity of 10 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), which began its oper-

ations in April last year, became the largest non-coking coal washery in the country.

The facility has already delivered Rs 314 crore in additional revenue, reinforcing the value of infrastructure modernisation, it said.

"Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the Q4 of 2025 rose significantly to Rs 12,873.19 crore, registering an 11 per cent year-on-year growth from Rs 11,581.57 crore in Q4 of the previous fiscal," the coal behemoth said.

NTPC to raise ₹4,000 cr via NCDs on May 9

PTI
NEW DELHI

State-run power giant NTPC on Wednesday said it has decided to raise Rs 4,000 crore through the issuance of non-convertible debentures on a private placement basis on May 9.

Proceeds will be utilised for, inter alia, funding of capital expenditure, refinancing of existing loans and other general corporate purposes, according to a regulatory filing.

According to the filing, the NTPC has decided to issue unsecured non-convertible debentures of Rs 4,000 crore on May 9, 2025, through private placement at a coupon rate of 6.84 per cent per annum for a tenor of 10 years, maturing on May 9, 2035, under the board resolution on June 29, 2024 and subsequent approval obtained through shareholders' resolution on August 29, 2024.

This is the second issue of debentures under the above mentioned approval, it stated, adding that the debentures are proposed to be listed on the BSE.

Reliance Power raises ₹348 cr via preferential issue of shares

PTI
NEW DELHI

Reliance Power on Wednesday said it has raised Rs 348.15 crore through preferential issue of shares.

The company said 9.55 crore equity shares were issued to Reliance Infrastructure (promoter) and 1 crore shares to Basera Home Finance Private Limited (public).

The 10.55 crore fully paid-up equity shares have been issued at a price of Rs 33 per share (including a premium of Rs 23 per share) aggregating to Rs 348.15 crore, it said.

The capital infusion will strengthen company's growth trajectory in the renewable energy sector. The company made a preferential issue of 46.20 crore warrants aggregating Rs 1,525 crore in October 2024. A minimum upfront amount of 25 per cent was paid on the warrants and the balance 75 per cent was payable in 18 months.

HUDCO FY25 net profit jumps 28% to ₹2,709 cr

Plans to tap Japanese mkt to raise \$2 billion

FPJ News Service
MUMBAI



net profit at Rs 727.74 crore for Q4 FY25 as against Rs 700.16 crore in the same period of last year. "Our financial results are reflective of our strategic initiatives as well as the support of all stakeholders, and being a government company with lowest levels of net non-performing assets, debt-equity and comfortable compound annual growth rate, is envisaged to play a catalytic role in financing infrastructure beyond housing for creating assets for Viksit Bharat," HUDCO CMD Sanjay Kulshrestha told mediaper-

sons. He said the company is planning to raise around \$2 billion through overseas borrowings in FY26 by tapping the Japanese market through a mix of ECBs and bonds.

In the second quarter of FY26, the company plans to raise \$500 million through ECBS, which also includes a bond series. Both will be in yen-denominated terms. From overseas borrowings, it may also look at the possibility of issuing social bonds in the Japanese market this fiscal year. Nearly 80% of the company's total bor-

rowing is from the domestic bonds and loans. Of the Rs 65,000 crore that HUDCO plans to raise, it will raise about Rs 1,000 crore through 54EC capital gains bonds and Rs 5,000 crore through five-year zero coupon bonds.

CMD said that the initiatives taken during FY25 have already begun to yield results, as "our weighted average incremental cost of borrowing has reduced from 7.01% last year to 6.75% currently. Total revenue from operation rose 32.46% to Rs 10,311.29 crore from Rs 7,784.29 crore in 2023-24. The growth reflects strong demand for diversified housing and infrastructure products and successful market penetration. Loan book y-o-y grew from Rs 92,654 crore to Rs 1,24,828 crore, recording an increase of nearly 35% over the previous year.

Infinx acquires US firm i3 Verticals for \$96 million

PTI
MUMBAI

City-headquartered Infinx on Wednesday said it has acquired Nasdaq-listed i3 Verticals' healthcare revenue cycle management business for USD 96 million. The 2012-founded Infinx is aiming to strengthen presence in the healthcare revenue cycle management (RCM) space and expand footprint into new customer segments like academic medical centers and other large provider groups through the acquisition, as per a company statement.

IAANS
NEW DELHI

The private equity (PE) landscape in April remained steady in terms of deal volume, clocking 139 transactions - a marginal 1 per cent rise - continuing its consistent monthly trend between 130 to 140 deals, a report showed on Wednesday.

While no billion-dollar deals were recorded this month - unlike the two in the previous month - investor appetite remained resilient, with six high-value transactions (ranging between \$100

Mkts vs Missiles: Op Sindoor Tests Stock Market Nerves

Teji Mandi



In a significant military development, India's Armed Forces launched 'Operation Sindoor' late Tuesday, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK. The operation has sparked global attention — politically and financially — raising questions about its impact on the markets. This article examines how markets have historically responded to India's military strikes and looks at how they are reacting to the latest developments under Operation Sindoor.

What's Happening?

In retaliation to the deadly Pahalgam attack on April 22 — which claimed 26 lives (25 Indian citizens and one Nepali) — the Indian Armed Forces initiated Operation Sindoor on Tuesday night. The mission targeted terror camps located in Pakistan and PoK. According to the Ministry of Defence, the targeted sites were being used to plan and execute attacks against India. Nine locations were hit in total. The ministry clarified that no Pakistani military bases were involved, with India deliberately choosing its targets to exercise strategic restraint.

How is Today's Market Reacting?

Indian equity benchmarks

Nifty50 and BSE Sensex opened marginally lower on Wednesday (May 07), defying expectations of a sharper decline after Operation Sindoor. The markets, however, quickly recovered and touched a high of 24,301.20, down 78.49 points or 0.32%, while the BSE Sensex is at 80,392.19, down 248.88 points or 0.31%. The pullback after hitting the day's high reflects a cautious stance among investors.

What's Next?

As Indian markets trend lower and the India VIX continues to climb, investor sentiment remains cautious. The next move will depend largely on Pakistan's response. According to LiveMint, Kranthi Bathini of WealthMills Securities noted that while Indian equities may react sharply in the short term, a gradual recovery is likely — provided the situation doesn't escalate. A prolonged or widened conflict could dent investor confidence. Market expert Ajay Bagga also pointed out that the geopolitical risk to Indian markets has now materialised with the strikes.

Teji Mandi (TM Investment Technologies Pvt Ltd) is a SEBI registered Research Analyst (RA). Information in this article should not be construed as investment advice. Please visit www.tejimandi.com to know more.

DABUR INDIA POSTS ₹313 CR PAT IN Q4

PTI
NEW DELHI

Dabur India on Wednesday reported an 8.35 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 312.73 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025 impacted by higher expenses in a challenging demand environment.

The company had posted a profit of Rs 341.22 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal, Dabur India said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 2,830.14 crore as against Rs 2,814.64 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses were higher at Rs 2,559.39 crore as compared to Rs 2,490.43 crore. FMCG demand trends

FMCG demand trends remained subdued during the fourth quarter and full year 2024-25

remained subdued during the fourth quarter and full year 2024-25. Revenue for the full year 2024-25 stood at Rs 12,563 crore, the company said.

"Despite facing some pressures in the India business, our international business enabled us to successfully navigate the complex external environment. Our International Business achieved 19% constant currency growth in the fourth quarter and 17% during the full year," Dabur India CEO Mohit Malhotra said.



million and \$999 million) totalling \$2.1 billion, according to the Grant Thornton Bharat Dealtracker.

The standout deal was Warburg Pincus and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority's \$862 million investment in IDFC FIRST Bank.

"Deal volumes remained resilient, but the sharp dip in both M&A and PE values

reflects growing investor caution on taking large bets. While cross border deals slowed down, domestic mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and PE/VC activity is stable," said Shanthi Vijetha, Partner, Growth at Grant Thornton Bharat.

PE/VCs are focusing on early-stage investments so that they can shape financial performance and drive growth. "India's ability to navigate the US tariff conundrum and the response to the recent terror attacks will be critical to drive deal activity in 2025," she mentioned.

GIC Re CSR initiative improves school infra in Thane district

As part of its CSR initiative, GIC Re, in collaboration with the VMM Foundation (Virangna Mahila Mandal), has significantly contributed to the improvement of school infrastructure by constructing new toilet facilities in five schools across the Shapur region of Thane district. The beneficiary schools are located in the villages of Kinavali, Mugaon, Naryangaon, Veloli, and Umbrai. This initiative is a crucial step towards enhancing hygiene and sanitation standards, ensuring a healthier and safer learning environment for students.



Representatives from GIC Re and the VMM Foundation reaffirmed their commitment to creating lasting impact through public-private partnerships focused on strengthening rural infrastructure and supporting inclusive education.

DII / FPI trading activity			
	BUY VALUE	SELL VALUE	NET VALUE
DII	13,168.99	10,790.50	2,378.49
FII / FPI	16,371.71	13,785.85	2,585.86

All figures in ₹ crores

Mkts close higher despite profit-booking



Hot stocks

Company Name	5/6/2025	7 DSMA	21 DSMA	50DSMA	250 DSMA	BSE 1 Year High Price	Pulscore
Tata Consumer	1154.80	1159.99	1121.16	1036.65	1063.25	1247.39	100
Dr Reddy's Labs	1159.90	1178.26	1156.12	1153.46	1259.63	1420.20	100
Axis Bank	1161.00	1178.10	1147.01	1083.91	1138.77	1338.55	100
Cyient	1161.90	1185.34	1189.97	1251.45	1706.80	2156.35	100
Clean Science	1173.00	1182.51	1187.25	1214.31	1401.97	1690.00	100
Global Health	1186.80	1198.74	1233.47	1216.31	1158.92	1443.95	100
Symphony	1190.55	1169.47	1154.38	1146.51	1308.99	1878.95	100
Whirlpool India	1194.80	1224.14	1135.44	1040.26	1701.87	2450.00	100
Bata India	1205.65	1208.09	1218.20	1235.11	1374.41	1632.00	100
Lloyds Metals	1209.55	1222.92	1246.30	1199.10	981.84	1477.50	100
Aurobindo Pharm	1211.15	1224.24	1174.95	1146.28	1288.12	1592.55	100
Voltas	1229.65	1236.24	1281.82	1337.55	1550.83	1946.20	100
Balaji Amines	1235.40	1275.66	1269.26	1287.05	1941.48	2550.15	100
KPIT Technologi.	1240.30	1242.53	1188.10	1245.06	1504.31	1928.75	100
Deepak Fertiliz.	1243.50	1285.75	1238.88	1143.01	1022.82	1443.35	100
Godrej Consumer	1250.90	1260.21	1228.99	1132.29	1268.69	1541.30	100
Sobha	1265.50	1291.81	1231.97	1219.23	1597.55	2178.74	100
Max Financial	1268.25	1287.98	1221.45	1132.81	1099.72	1324.70	100
Macrotech Devel.	1297.95	1314.61	1251.43	1196.91	1273.49	1648.00	100
Astral	1299.55	1340.13	1329.22	1322.88	1796.72	2453.95	100
Adani Ports	1320.35	1252.95	1214.77	1164.71	1310.67	1607.95	100
Prestige Estates	1330.70	1344.10	1241.02	1205.17	1589.98	2072.75	100
Rainbow Child.	1358.70	1368.99	1430.42	1356.28	1379.18	1708.50	100
Mahanagar Gas	1377.65	1346.52	1323.11	1319.48	1475.04	1988.55	100
Ipca Labs.	1382.00	1395.69	1396.72	1395.76	1418.05	1757.65	100
Glenmark Pharma	1405.15	1388.41	1408.48	1408.31	1462.87	1830.05	100
Gland Pharma	1414.20	1416.19	1442.45	1517.70	1738.94	2220.95	100
Reliance Industr	1420.55	1392.97	1292.86	1260.15	1363.69	1608.95	100
ICICI Bank	1431.65	1425.29	1377.91	1313.05	1246.85	1446.25	100
ERIS Lifescience	1456.70	1472.70	1411.29	1339.42	1244.34	1593.00	100
Torrent Power	1458.70	1515.96	1548.54	1438.17	1568.91	2037.35	100
Cochin Shipyard	1481.40	1531.16	1463.89	1388.20	1706.82	2977.10	100
Tech Mahindra	1496.55	1486.85	1392.09	1457.84	1552.76	1807.40	100
Phoenix Mills	1498.45	1592.28	1595.11	1593.14	1665.86	2068.15	100
J B Chemicals & Cipla	1503.45	1574.84	1582.13	1597.45	1778.30	2029.00	100
	1510.70	1535.72	1496.60	1479.65	1501.63	1702.00	100

Upwardly & Downwardly Cos

Company Name	4/29/2025	5/7/2025	Days	Gain/Loss %	Per Day Average
CEAT	3061.40	3630.00	5	18.57	113.72
Schaeffler India	3280.70	3625.55	5	10.51	68.97
Muthoot Finance	2150.95	2307.05	5	7.26	31.22
M & M	2909.20	3119.85	5	7.24	42.13
ICICI Securities	837.30	895.70	5	6.97	11.68

Top gainers (%)

Company Name	5/6/2025	5/7/2025	% chg
Aarti Drugs	349.75	419.70	20.00
Welspun Living	120.60	135.05	11.98
CCL Products	694.95	776.00	11.66
Endurance Tech.	1870.10	2023.70	8.21
K P R Mill Ltd	1019.10	1101.60	8.10
One 97	815.30	873.85	7.18
Piramal Enterp.	964.75	1033.95	7.17
IIFL Finance	344.05	367.85	6.92
V-Mart Retail	3209.05	3403.25	6.05
Gujarat Alkalies	590.40	624.80	5.83
Aarti Industries	434.45	458.75	5.59
V I P Inds.	306.45	323.40	5.53
ElIH	351.45	370.35	5.38
Samvardh. Mothe.	135.35	142.50	5.28
Kalpataru Proj.	924.45	972.00	5.14
Bharat Forge	1085.10	1140.45	5.10
Tata Motors	647.80	680.50	5.05
K E C Intl.	691.15	724.60	4.84
Sundram Fasten.	917.35	960.40	4.69
Aditya Birla Cap	191.80	200.80	4.69
Vardhman Textile	451.75	472.80	4.66
Finolex Inds.	171.00	178.90	4.62
SRF	2924.85	3053.25	4.39
Privi Speci.	1880.00	1962.00	4.36
KRBL	294.90	307.15	4.15
MRF	134964.41	140428.70	4.05
Kalyan Jewellers	502.50	522.65	4.01
Kaynes Tech	5623.40	5843.45	3.91
Intellect Design	783.00	813.55	3.90
Kajaria Ceramics	797.70	828.40	3.85
NBCC	92.38	95.93	3.84
Avanti Feeds	854.70	887.45	3.83
Poonawalla Fin	369.00	383.00	3.79
Whirlpool India	1194.80	1239.55	3.75
Elgi Equipments	440.90	457.30	3.72
Devyani Intl.	176.85	182.95	3.45
Asahi India Glas	726.85	751.85	3.44
B H E L	217.70	225.10	3.40
KPIT Technologi.	1240.30	1282.30	3.39
Piramal Pharma	206.70	213.65	3.36
Angel One	2296.75	2372.90	3.32
Zee Entertainment	106.15	109.65	3.30
PF Fintech.	1587.85	1640.10	3.29
AB Inds.	5580.35	5761.70	3.25
KEI Industries	3193.35	3294.85	3.18
Aditya Bir. Fas.	256.65	264.75	3.16
Anupam Rasayan	877.80	905.15	3.12

Top losers (%)

Company Name	5/6/2025	5/7/2025	% chg
Bharat Dynamics	1527.65	1448.30	-5.09
Mazagon Dock	2968.60	2817.45	-5.19
Jindal Worldwide	63.13	60.48	-4.20
Adani Energy Sol	907.20	871.35	-3.95
Jindal Saw	227.90	219.50	-3.69
Asian Paints	2417.95	2332.65	-3.53
Radico Khaitan	2534.00	2448.05	-3.39
Bombay Burmah	1835.40	1774.30	-3.33
Suven Pharma	1118.50	1081.40	-3.32
Godfrey Phillips	8673.35	8422.65	-2.89
Krishna Institu.	663.25	644.25	-2.86
Sun TV Network	612.70	597.10	-2.55
JBM Auto	683.40	666.00	-2.57
Chambal Fert.	725.50	709.00	-2.25
Craftsman Auto	4750.75	4643.60	-2.26
Sun Pharma.Inds.	1818.75	1781.35	-2.06
Carborundum Uni.	981.75	961.65	-2.05
Natco Pharma	830.20	813.35	-2.03
PNC Infratech	254.65	250.15	-1.77
Data Pattern	2199.70	2161.95	-1.72
Rajesh Exports	187.95	184.80	-1.68
H U D C O	217.90	214.30	-1.65
GE Shipping Co	887.85	873.40	-1.63
Tejas Networks	701.65	690.35	-1.61
Capri Global	165.55	162.95	-1.57
Mahindra Life.	330.00	324.85	-1.56
P & G Hygiene	14135.20	13919.55	-1.53
Ramkrishna Forg.	594.85	585.90	-1.50
Cochin Shipyard	1481.40	1459.40	-1.49
Grindwell Norton	1571.70	1548.75	-1.46
Archean Chemical	613.65	605.40	-1.34
Ipca Labs.	1382.00	1364.05	-1.30
DCM Shriram	1012.10	999.55	-1.24
Century Plyboard	709.95	701.20	-1.23
UCO Bank	30.85	30.47	-1.23
Bajaj Auto	7942.80	7846.80	-1.21
Adani Total Gas	633.20	625.65	-1.19
Aurobindo Pharma	1211.15	1197.05	-1.16
ITC	435.65	430.65	-1.15
Grasim Inds	2729.00	2697.85	-1.14
Firstsour.Solu.	317.50	313.95	-1.12
Esab India	4650.85	4600.20	-1.09
TCI Express	658.50	651.45	-1.07
HCL Technologies	1579.10	1562.65	-1.04
Reliance Industr	1420.55	1406.00	-1.02
Patanjali Foods	1851.20	1832.80	-0.99
Fin Organic	4158.00	4116.70	-0.99

Motilal Oswal Team

MUMBAI

Nifty Index opened negative by around 150 points on account of geopolitical concerns but witnessed a sharp uptick to 24450 zones in the first tick. It was followed by volatility and cool off in the first hour itself but again saw a gradual up move throughout the session. It formed a bullish candle on daily frame and managed to close above 24400 marks. However it has started to form lower highs from the last three sessions and even though support based buying is intact, the index is lacking follow up at higher zones for it to sustain. Now it has to hold above 24400 zones for strength to regain towards 24650 then 24750 zones while supports can be seen at 24200 then 24050 zones.

On option front, Maximum Call OI is at 24400 then 25000 strike while Maximum Put OI is at 24300 then 24400 strike. Call writing is seen at 24400 then 24850 strike while Put writing is seen at 24300 then 24350 strike.

Option data suggests a broader trading range in between 23800 to 24800 zones while an immediate range between 24100 to 24600 levels.

The S&P BSE Sensex Index opened on a negative note but quickly recovered from the initial decline. The index faced resistance near 80800



I always knew I was going to be rich. I don't think I ever doubted it for a minute.

Warren Buffett

marks where it encountered sudden profit booking. In the latter part of the session, the Sensex traded sideways within a range of approximately 300 points but managed to close with gains of around 100 points. On the daily chart it formed a bullish candle following a gap down opening, indicating buying interest at lower levels. Now if it manages to hold above 80500 zones then it can move higher towards 81000 then 81300 levels else weakness could be seen towards 80500 and 80200 levels.

Bank Nifty Index opened marginally lower near 54000 zones but remained quite volatile in a wider range of 500 points in the initial hour of the session. However gradual recovery was seen from lower levels towards 54700 zones in the latter part of the day and finally it closed with gains of around 340 points near 54600 levels. It formed a Bullish candle on daily scale as buying interest is visible at lower levels and it took support near its 20 DEMA. Now it has to hold above 54250 zones for a bounce towards 55000 then 55250 levels while on the downside support is seen at 54250 then 54000 zones.

Nifty future closed positive with gains of 0.17% at 24472 levels. Positive setup seen in Paytm, PEL, BSE, IIFL, Bharat Forge, Aarti Industries, Motherson, Tata Motors, SRF, AB Capital, Maruti, APL Apollo and KPIT Tech.

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DATA SOURCE: CAPITALINE



Techno Electric:

● Techno Electric & Engineering Company Ltd. (TEECL), has officially launched Techno Digital Infra Pvt Ltd, its wholly-owned digital infrastructure arm. Backed by an ambitious investment plan of USD 1 billion, Techno Digital plans an integrated network of hyperscale and edge data centers targeting a cumulative capacity of 250 MW spread across the country. This strategic move marks a transformative leap to revolutionize India's digital economy, aligned with the Government of India's flagship programme, Digital India.

Solex Energy:

● Solex Energy announced that it has won a major order from KPI Green Energy Limited, a leading Renewable Power Producer and EPC company. As part of this landmark agreement, Solex Energy will supply 310 MW of state-of-the-art N-Type TOPCon 615Wp Glass-to-Glass (G12R) Solar PV Modules, valued at Rs 451.41 crore and the deliveries for the same will commence from Sept'25. The modules will be used in KPI Green Energy's GUVNL Projects, part of their own Independent Power Producer (IPP) portfolio.

Jindal Drilling:

● Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has issued

Notification of Award to Jindal Drilling for deployment of rig Jindal Explorer on its subsequent contract for a period of 3 years at Effective Day Rate (EDR) of USD 35,138.71. The current contract of Rig Jindal Explorer with ONGC is expected to conclude in Q1FY26 and subsequent contract is expected to commence in Q3FY26.

Lupin:

● Lupin announced that it has launched Eslicarbazepine Acetate Tablets, 200 mg, 400 mg, 600 mg, and 800 mg, following the approval of its Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) from the USFDA. Lupin is one of the first ANDA applicants and is eligible for 180 days of shared generic exclusivity.

Tata Chemicals:

● Tata Chemicals Ltd on Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss from continuing operations at Rs 67 crore for the quarter ended March. Its net loss stood at Rs 818 crore in the year-ago period. Total income fell marginally to Rs 3,551 crore in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal from Rs 3,589 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, according to a regulatory filing.

MRF:

Tyre maker MRF Ltd on Wednesday reported 29.28 per cent increase in consolidated net profit from continuing operations at Rs 512.11 crore for March quarter FY25, riding on higher sales. The company had earned a net profit from continuing operations of Rs 396.11 crore in the year-ago period, MRF said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 7,074.82 crore as against Rs 6,349.36 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Stock Ideas

TIRUMALCHM - Technical call of the day

After making double bottom, the stock attempted to bounce back from the support levels as indicated through trendline on daily charts. The RSI indicator is also indicating a possible formation of positive RSI divergence suggesting bullish implications.



BUY TIRUMALCHM	
CMP	250.75
SL	242
TRGT	261.27

52-week high

Company Name	5/7/2025	52-week High	52-week Low	Change Rs	Chg (%)
CEAT	3630.00	3642.00	2211.00	1431.00	64.72
Radico Khaitan	2448.05	2666.00	1428.95	1237.05	86.57
SRF	3053.25	3086.25	2088.55	997.70	47.77
RRPSemiconductor	954.10	954.10	2107	933.03	4428.24
Bharti Airtel	1895.95	1916.90	1224.50	692.40	56.55
GHV Infra	476.35	476.35	19.78	456.57	2308.24
GTV Engineering	743.60	800.00	395.00	405.00	102.53
Everest Organics	461.30	472.40	112.50	359.90	319.91
Anupam Rasayan	905.15	911.25	600.95	310.30	51.63
Kothari Indl	305.10	305.10	4.42	300.68	6802.71
Rajas. Tube Mfg	304.45	304.45	26.00	278.45	1070.96
Mizzen Ventures	249.00	249.00	16.43	232.57	1415.52
Aster DM Health.	535.15	537.20	312.25	224.95	72.04
Marico	735.60	737.40	518.80	218.60	42.14
Mahamaya Steel	265.80	284.00	94.15	189.85	201.65
Indian Link Ch.	331.70	331.70	158.75	174.95	111.61
Osiajee Textfab	197.00	197.50	34.50	163.00	472.46
Narmada Macplast	167.75	175.90	15.53	160.37	1032.65
Colab Platforms	149.40	149.40	10.83	138.57	1279.50
Yash Trad.& Fin.	154.30	154.30	20.37	133.93	657.49
Hira Automobile	198.45	198.45	67.83	130.62	192.57
J A Finance	152.75	152.75	26.01	126.74	487.27
Swan Defence	140.70	140.70	35.99	104.71	290.94
Bio Green Papers	116.13	116.13	11.78	104.35	885.82
RDB Real Estate	91.50	91.50	12.90	78.60	609.30
Euro Asia Export	80.53	80.53	13.00	67.53	519.46
RSC Internl.	63.30	63.30	7.40	55.90	755.41
Vega Jewellers	57.58	57.58	1.78	55.80	3134.83
Cura Tech.	77.30	77.30	23.24	54.06	232.62
Tavernier Res.	67.50	73.59	30.75	42.84	139.32
Jaihind Synth	59.81	66.00	23.51	42.49	180.73
V R Woodart	46.97	46.97	4.56	42.41	930.04

corporate gallery

Allen Indore's Riddhesh will represent India in IPhO final



Once again Allen Career Institute students have been selected in the international Olympiad to bring pride to the country. Allen Career Institute Indore's Center Head Kamal Sharma said that the Indian team for the 55th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) has been announced. Allen Indore's student Riddhesh is also included in the four-member team. Cake was cut at Allen Indore and Riddhesh was wished good luck for the IPhO final to be held in France between 18 and 24 July.

Allen's Director Dr. Brajesh Maheshwari said that four students are from Allen in the five-member Indian team announced for the 55th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) to be held in France. It includes Aagam Shah, Kanishk Jain, Rajit Gupta and Riddhesh Bendale. All of them are Allen's classroom students.

This exam is conducted in four stages. In the first stage, National Standard Examination in Physics (NSEP), 135 Allen students were selected. Then in the second stage, Indian National Physics Olympiad (INPhO), 13 Allen students were selected. After the third stage, Orientation cum Selection Camp (OCSC), 4 Allen students were selected to represent India. The fourth stage is IPhO Final, in which teams from more than 80 countries will participate.

13 Employees Of WR Felicitated With General Manager's Safety Award



Ashok Kumar Misra - General Manager of Western Railway felicitated 13 employees at WR Headquarters, Mumbai for their outstanding work which resulted in safe train working. These employees were awarded in appreciation of their alertness in duty and contribution towards averting untoward incidents, during the month of February and March, 2025 and thereby ensuring the safety of train operations. Out of the 13 employees, 05 are from Vadodara Division, 03 are from Mumbai Central Division, 01 is from Ahmedabad Division, while 02 each are from Bhavnagar and Ratlam Divisions. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Vineet Abhishek, Misra appreciated the alertness of the staff who were being awarded and mentioned that they are exemplary role models for everyone to emulate. The employees showed their great zeal and commitment towards safe running of trains in various areas of safety such as detection of rail & track fracture, brake binding or dangling objects in passing train, application of emergency brakes to save untoward incidents, save human life, extinguishing the smoke detected in coaches, etc.

WR records 2nd Best Ever Monthly Performance in last five years



In order to ensure hassle-free, comfortable travel & better services to all bonafide passengers over Western Railway, intensive ticket checking drives are being carried out continuously over Mumbai suburban

local services, Mail/Express as well as passenger trains & holiday special trains so as to curb the menace of ticketless/irregular passengers. The highly motivated ticket checking team under the supervision of senior commercial officers of Western Railway organized several ticket checking drives in the month of April 2025, thereby recovering an amount to the tune of Rs. 21.89 Crore, which also includes



Rs. 6 Cr from Mumbai Suburban section. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Vineet Abhishek during the month of April 2025, an amount of Rs. ₹21.89 crore was recovered through detection of 3.10 lakh ticketless/irregular passengers, including unbooked luggage cases. Also, in the month of April, WR realized fines amounting to Rs. 6 crore through detection of more than 1 Lakh cases over Mumbai Suburban section. To prevent unauthorized entry in AC local trains, frequent surprise ticket checking drives are also being carried out. As a result of these drives more than 6,000 unauthorized passengers have been penalized in April 2025 and Rs.20.24 lakhs collected in fines.

Western Railway appeals to the general public to travel with proper and valid tickets.

whispersinthecorridors

Dr Suresh Mehrotra



Leadership dispute in Mahagathbandhan?



The Mahagathbandhan alliance, preparing for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, has ramped up its coordination. In a notable development, leaders from all alliance partners—including the Congress, RJD, and Left parties—are working together more visibly and actively than before. For the first time, district-level leaders from these alliance parties are being brought under one platform to emphasize the importance of unity and coordination. Despite these moves toward unity, a major sticking point remains unresolved: the question of projecting RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav as the alliance's chief ministerial face. The Congress party's reluctance to endorse Tejashwi for the top post has stalled a unanimous announcement on leadership. Nevertheless, RJD strategists are actively engaging with senior Congress leaders in Delhi in an attempt to break the deadlock.

M K Mohapatra appointed as Ambassador to Romania

Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, presently Ambassador of India to Guatemala, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania. He is a 2000 batch IFS officer.



Kaushal Raj Sharma likely to be PS to Delhi CM

If sources are to be believed Kaushal Raj Sharma could be PS of Delhi CM Rekha Gupta. Sources said that Sharma has been transferred from UP to Delhi segment of AGMUT cadre for a period of three years with a purpose. He is a 2006 batch IAS officer.

Anish Prasad appointed as IG, BSF

Anish Prasad presently working as Executive Director, Vigilance, Railway Board, has been appointed as IG, BSF on lateral deputation basis up to his remaining deputation tenure i.e. June 21, 2026. He is a 2003 batch IPS officer of Tripura cadre.

Sanjaya Kumar Satapathy appointed as Director (HR), AWEIL

Sanjaya Kumar Satapathy, Chief Human Resource Officer, Tata Steel Technical Services Ltd, has been appointed as Director (Human Resources), Advanced Weapons & Equipment India Limited.

IAS Dr. Waghmare Prasad Krishna Guiding Lohardaga's Youth in the Right Direction with Free Coaching, Sports, and Digital Literacy Program (Jharkhand)

IAS Dr Waghmare Prasad Krishna is a 2011 Batch Officer of Jharkhand cadre and is currently posted as Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, Jharkhand—a Naxal affected District. His vision for the district is to steer the youth in the right direction and prepare them for a brighter future.

"We want to push the district's youth towards meaningful career paths so that they don't face crises or take the wrong path" he says. Under Dr. Krishna's leadership, a multifaceted development approach is being implemented for youth, where all key aspects of development are being taken care of—like sports, education, digital literacy, and more. What makes these efforts truly stand out is that they are being provided entirely free of cost. "All of this is completely free and exclusively for students who cannot afford such facilities," Dr. Krishna emphasized. In the field of sports, training centers have been established across the district. "We have also engaged professional coaches for cricket, football, wrestling, and other sports," he adds. For academically inclined students, aspiring to become doctors or engineers, free NEET and JEE coaching has been started. Further recognising the need to provide quiet, stable and focused environment for the youth, a library has been established in the district dedicated to the preparation of competitive exams. To personally motivate them, Dr. Krishna explained the initiative taken by all the officers in the district: "All of our officers here, who have cleared these exams, take out time to meet the students and guide them." Additionally to enhance digital literacy, a computer training program has been started equipping individuals with much needed skills in today's world. "This is a Central Government prescribed course for a period of three months, somewhat like a foundation course" he explained. Through these simple yet powerful initiatives, Dr. Krishna is guiding the youth toward a brighter, more fulfilling future—one that is set to leave a lasting impact.



Why appointment of new Chairperson, UPSC delayed?

It has been more than one year! The Government of India is yet to fill the vacancy of Chairperson, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The senior-most Member is generally appointed the Chairperson. If sources are to be believed, some lobby is reportedly active in stalling the order. Which lobby is interested?



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OPERATION SINDOOR

EK CHUTKI SINDOOR: Victims kin hail action

Pahalgam terror attack victim Lt Vinay Narwal's father, Rajesh Narwal, on Wednesday hailed India's response and said the Modi government has sent a strong message and now the perpetrators of the April 22 attack "will think 100 times" before repeating such attacks in the future.

"When this (Pahalgam) incident happened, even then you (media) came to my home and asked what I expected from the government. My answer was that I had faith in our government. And today, the government has justified that trust," Rajesh Narwal told reporters at his residence in Karnal.

"I had said that such a thing (retaliatory strikes) has to be done so that no one dares to do



School teachers celebrate in Bikaner

such a cowardly act again...the strikes carried out on the terror targets (in Pak and PoK) will resonate in their minds forever.

UTTAR PRADESH
Shubham Dwivedi's wife Ashanya thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and armed forces for taking "revenge" on her husband's death.

"I want to thank Prime Minister Modi, ministers and chiefs of armed forces, including Air Force and Army Chief General, for taking revenge for my husband's death in the Pahalgam terror attack," said Ashanya.

"Me and my entire family had enough trust in PM Modi and our armed forces, and the

way they carried out strikes at terrorist infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has kept our trust alive," she added.

"This is the real tribute to my husband (Shubham) and those who were also killed in the Pahalgam attack. Wherever my husband is, he will be at peace today," she said.

BENGALURU
The family of Bharath Bhushan, a Pahalgam terror attack victim, welcomed the air strikes carried out by Indian armed forces on nine terror targets in Pakistan on Wednesday and said the government has done a good job and that

they stay in support of them.

Bushan's father Channaveerappa said, "The name, 'Operation Sindoor' is correct because they have removed the tilak of many women. That's a good step. Government has done a good job and they have also taken the support of many countries."

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Father of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, the ponywalla who sacrificed his life while protecting the tourists during the Pahalgam terror attack, said on Wednesday that the military strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have avenged his son's killing.

KOCHI
Arathy, daughter of N Ramachandran who was gunned down by terrorists in Kashmir's Pahalgam, on Wednesday welcomed Indian Army's "Operation Sindoor" and expressed hope that it would bring some relief to the families of those killed in front of them.

24 AIRSTRIKES

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar
NEW DELHI

THE NINE SITES THAT WERE TARGETED WERE:

1. Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur (Punjab, Pakistan) : Headquarters of JeM, this facility played a central role in planning terror attacks, including the Pulwama bombing on February 14, 2019. The attackers received training at this camp.

2. Markaz Taiba, Muridke (Sheikhpura, Punjab, Pakistan) : Founded in 2000, this is the main training and ideological centre of LeT, located in Nangal Sahdan, Muridke.

3. Sarjal / Tehra Kalan Facility (Narawal, Punjab, Pakistan): A primary JeM launch site for infiltrating terrorists into Jammu & Kashmir. Hidden within a Primary Health Center in Tehra Kalan village, it was designed to conceal its true purpose.

4. Mehmoona Joya Facility, Sialkot (Punjab, Pakistan): Operated by Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), this site is near Kotli Bhutta Government Hospital in Head Marala, Sialkot. Supported by Pakistan's ISI, the facility was covertly established within government premises along the International Border and Line of Control (LoC).

5. Markaz Ahle Hadith, Barnala (Bhimber, PoJK) A

9 TERROR CAMPS

strategic LeT facility used for infiltration into the Poonch-Rajouri-Reasi sector. Located on the outskirts of Barnala on Kote Jamel Road, it lies just 500 meters from Barnala town.

6. Markaz Abbas, Kotli (PoJK) A JeM center named after Hazrat Abbas Bin Abdul Motalib, situated in Mohalla Roli near the Bypass Road in Kotli. It is located approximately 2 km south-east of the Kotli military camp.

7. Maskar Raheel Shahid, Kotli District (PoJK) An old HM camp located 2.5 km from Mahuli Puli on the Mirpur-Kotli Road. Tucked away in the hills and accessible only by a dirt track, it includes barracks, arms storage rooms, offices, and residential quarters for terrorists.

8. Shawai Nallah Camp, Muzaffarabad (PoJK) A key LeT facility used for the recruitment, registration, and training of militants. It has been active since the early 2000s.

9. Markaz Syedna Bilal, Muzaffarabad (PoJK) The main JeM center in PoJK, located opposite the Red Fort in Muzaffarabad. This facility serves as a transit camp for JeM terrorists before their launch into Jammu & Kashmir.

At any given time, 50-100 cadres reside in this facility. India has avenged the Pahalgam massacre.

‘UNITED WE STAND’

Even as the country is celebrating India's retaliatory actions, state governments especially the Opposition-ruled states united in the time of crisis.

Extending his full support on Wednesday, **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin** said, "Tamil Nadu stands with the Indian Army against terrorism. With our Army, for our nation. Tamil Nadu stands resolute," he posted on X.

Leader of Opposition and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami commended the Indian Armed Forces "for their precise execution of #OperationSindoor, targeting terror camps in Pakistan

and PoJK in response to the Pahalgam attack." In a message on X, he said, "Under the vigilant leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. @narendramodi Avl, justice has been delivered. This decisive action underscores our nation's unwavering commitment to eradicating terrorism and safeguarding our citizens."

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said her government will cooperate completely with the central government. "I had discussions with the central government and with all the departments. Due to privacy, I will not disclose anything. At this moment of crisis, we should all be together. There

should not be any differences as we all love our country. People should not spread unnecessary news to create panic," added Mamata.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar heaped praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi following Operation Sindoor, and said that all people had irrefutable faith in leadership of the PM and was also proud of him.

Nitish commented on 'X', "Indian Armed forces, while responding to the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam carried out on April 22, targeted nine terror hideouts spread over Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) under Operation Sin-

door. Entire country is united against terrorism and is proud of the Indian armed forces' valour and courage. All of us have immense faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and are also proud of him. Jai Hind."

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said India, Indians, and Indian armed forces have never tolerated terrorism and separatism in any form and would also never accept it.

Union Minister and LJP (RV) chief Chirag Paswan saluted the courage, valour, and sentiments of Indian armed forces.

-Inputs from N Chitra, Aritra Singha, Dheeraj Kumar

MEME FEST ROCKS SOCIAL MEDIA



VERIFY MESSAGES: INDIA TO CHINA

BEIJING: The Indian Embassy here has cautioned China's state-run tabloid Global Times to verify messages before posting them on social media on Indian military strikes targeting Pakistan's terror infrastructure on Wednesday. "(1/n) Dear @globaltimesnews we would recommend you verify your facts and cross-examine your sources before pushing out this kind of disinformation," the Indian Embassy said in a post on X. "(2/n) Several pro-Pakistan handles are spreading baseless claims in the context of #Operation-Sindoor, attempting to mislead the public. When media outlets share such information without verifying sources, it reflects a serious lapse in responsibility and journalistic ethics," it said, questioning the daily's posts on Pakistan Air Force claims.

PAK BLOCKS 16 INDIAN CHANNELS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani authorities have blocked 16 Indian YouTube news channels, 31 YouTube links, and 32 websites in view of the prevailing regional situation. The move is part of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's continued efforts to ensure the responsible use of digital platforms, officials said. The action of blocking 16 Indian YouTube news channels, 31 YouTube links, and 32 websites "has been taken in the light of the prevailing regional situation to safeguard national security and protect Pakistan's digital ecosystem," the officials said.

ON YOUR MARK...

TEAM FP

The Uttar Pradesh government has issued a high alert across all 75 districts of the state. DGP Prashant Kumar said that all police forces in the state have been instructed to remain fully armed and vigilant. "UP Police is on maximum alert. All units must be prepared to tackle any situation to ensure public safety. Security around key installations has been tightened, and coordination with defense agencies has been strengthened.

In view of the evolving security scenario, constant vigilance along the India-Nepal border has also been mandated to prevent any cross-border infiltration or suspicious movement.

In cities such as Lucknow and Kanpur, police have intensified vehicle checks and deployed additional security personnel in sensitive areas.

The high alert, akin to a red alert in terms of protocol, is a warning system used during serious threats or emergencies. Citizens are advised to remain alert and follow official instructions to ensure safety and order.

RAJ SHUTS TWO AIRPORTS

Flight operations from Jodhpur and Jaisalmer airports have been stopped till May 10, while

flight operations from Bikaner airport also remain closed on Wednesday. North-Western Railway has cancelled the leave of all its officers and employees and the state government has also directed all the police personnel to report to their headquarters. Schools in the bordering districts have been shut. After the air strike, some places witnessed outage throughout the night on Wednesday. Various villages in the border area remained in dark.

PANIC BUYING IN AMRITSAR

Uncertainty over the retaliation by Pakistan and India's Op Sindoor, led to panic buying among the residents of border city of Amritsar on Wednesday.

A number of people could be seen visiting bazaars in the morning - after the news pertaining to the ``Op Sindoor'' spread with time - to stock grocery items and other utility items and queues of vehicles were seen at petrol stations in most parts of the city in the morning. There were reports of panic buying of ration, eatables, medicines and fuels in several parts of the city, even as some of the shopkeepers also claimed that they were already out of stocks of several items by the afternoon.

The orders to shut schools in the border areas by the government also fuelled the people's fears leading to panic buying. However, even as fake advisories in the regard were also seen on social platforms asking people to stock up on cash, fuel, medicines and emergency supplies in the wake of conflict at the border, there was a let-up in the panic buying after the administration issued notices and warning against such fake advisories.

SCHOOLS SHUT IN PUNJAB

Schools in several parts of border areas of Punjab, including Pathankot, Amritsar, Fazilka and Ferozepur districts, were closed till the next orders for the students safety after Indian armed forces carried out 'Op Sindoor' targeting terror launch pads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK). Meanwhile, even though some villagers had begun to leave their native villages located on the border districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur and Fazilka in the past few days, their numbers swelled on Wednesday.

- Inputs from Biswajeet Banerjee, Manish Godha, Rajesh Moudil

‘We are proud’

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar
NEW DELHI

Their differences with the Centre on various issues apart, the Opposition parties on Wednesday hailed the Indian Armed forces in one voice.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi led the Congress in declaring that he was "Proud of our Armed Forces." He also wrote "Jai Hind!" along with it in his post on "X".

His sister and Congress general secretary and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was more elaborate and posted: "We are extremely proud of our army. Our brave soldiers protect our freedom and integrity. May God protect them and give them immense courage to face challenges with patience and bravery. Jai Hind."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who had only recently criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not preventing the Pahalgam attack despite intelligence inputs, stated that "We are extremely proud of our Indian Armed Forces who have stuck terror camps in Pakistan and PoK."

From front page

25 minutes of fury...

He said following the identification of the attackers, "based on eyewitness accounts as well as other information available to law enforcement agencies", the intelligence developed an accurate picture of the planners and backers of this team. "The features of this attack also tie in with Pakistan's longstanding record of perpetrating cross-border attacks on India, which is well documented and beyond question."

The FS cautioned that "intelligence indicated that further attacks against India are impending" and therefore due to "compulsion, both to deter and prevent" India exercised its right to respond to deter such more cross-border terrorism.

Meanwhile, as India remained prepared to see if Pakistan would indulge in any escalation, Pakistani Defence Minister Khwaja Asif on Wednesday said, "If India stops attacking us, we will wrap up things." His remarks stood in sharp contrast to the bravado he displayed a day earlier when he had remarked, "If Pakistan is attacked then the world will remember our reaction, nobody will survive."

Sirens wail, lights...

Despite the eerie quiet, the scene wasn't without its modern twist—many residents stepped out to record videos of the blackout on their mobile phones, turning the event into a surreal blend of past memories and present-day digital curiosity.

The drill was a part of a broader effort to assess readiness and public awareness in times of crisis.

22 Naxals killed in...

"Following the latest gunfight that took place this morning in the Karregutta area, bodies of 22 Naxalites have been recovered," he said, adding that the identity of the slain cadres was yet to be established.

The operation was still underway in the region, spread over nearly 800 sq km on both sides of the interstate border between Bijapur (Chhattisgarh) and Mulugu and Bhadradi-Kothagudem (Telangana), more than 450 km from the capital Raipur.

With the latest encounter, the toll of Naxalites gunned down under Operation San-kalp since April 21 has climbed to 26.

The operation was launched based on inputs about the presence of senior cadres of battalion no. 1, the strongest military formation of Maoists, Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee

(DKSZC) and the Telangana state committee of Maoists.

On April 24, three women Naxalites belonging to the PLGA battalion no.1 of Maoists and carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh each, were gunned down on the Karregutta hills, leading to the recovery of a huge cache of weapons, explosives, and other material.

On May 5, a woman Naxalite was killed in a gunfight with security forces in the area.

The area surrounded by dense forests and lined by hills is believed to be the base of the Maoist battalion no. 1, the police official said.

"The inputs suggest several senior-level Maoist cadres have either been killed or seriously injured during this operation, but their colleagues managed to drag them inside the forest," he said.

The official said hundreds of Naxal hideouts and bunkers have been destroyed so far during the operation, and a huge cache of explosive material, detonators, medicines, and other items was seized. At least six security personnel, including an official of the CoBRA unit, were injured in different incidents of IED blasts. All the injured jawans are out of danger and are being treated in various hospitals. "As the operation is currently in progress, specific details cannot be disclosed at this time for security reasons. Further details will be shared at an appropriate time," the official added.

With the latest action, 168 Naxalites have been gunned down in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year. Of them, 151 were eliminated in the Bastar division, comprising seven districts, including Bijapur.

Coaching centre...

He reportedly coerced some into physical relationships and attempted to force religious conversion.

One brave victim broke the silence and informed her parents, who then contacted Devendra Mudgal of Hindu Jagran Manch. The group caught Khan red-handed and handed him over to the Kotwali police. Investigations revealed Khan is a native of Gormi, Bhind, and is linked to the Insaniyat Foundation, a group whose members avoid surnames to mask identities. His institute had a partner named Pradeep Sharma, who is also under scrutiny.

Authorities suspect Khan is part of a wider racket spanning multiple districts and possibly international links. CSP Deepali Chandoria confirmed the ongoing investigation and stated that while Hindu imagery filled the coaching centre, the accused's official records list him as Aslam Khan. The case has sparked outrage, with Hindu groups demanding a deeper probe into coaching centres being used for exploitation under the guise of education.

Fresh heat wave spell likely in eastern India from today: IMD

PTI NEW DELHI

A fresh spell of heat wave may commence over eastern India from Thursday, while rainfall and thunderstorm activity will continue over the northwest and central parts of the country for the next five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

The weather department warned of heavy rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, over the northeast until May 11.

It also said heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and squally winds will likely continue over Gujarat until Thursday.

The IMD had said most parts of India may see above-normal temperatures in May,

but occasional thunderstorms may keep the heat from reaching the severe levels of last year. IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said most parts of the country were likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall, except for some areas in northwest, central and northeast India.

The country recorded 72 heatwave days in April, the IMD DG added.

Above-normal heat wave days were reported in Rajasthan and Gujarat -- six to 11 days -- and in east Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha -- four to six days -- as compared to the usual two to three days.

In east-central India, Maharashtra, and adjoining parts of northern Peninsular India, one to three days of heat were recorded, slightly below the normal of two to three days.

OPERATION SINDOOR | People in some border villages in Punjab start moving to safer areas after Op



People hail Operation Sindoor, in Ahmedabad

PM picked the op name

PTI NEW DELHI

It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who picked the evocative term "Operation Sindoor" to codename the Indian armed forces' strikes on nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, official sources said on Wednesday.

With terrorists in Pahal-gam gunning down 26 civilians, all men and mostly tourists, and the devastated wives of several of the victims becoming the face of the tragedy, the name "Operation Sindoor" was considered the appropriate



moniker for the retaliatory exercise, they noted.

Sources said it was the prime minister's idea to codename the military exercise aimed at avenging the slaughtering of civilians, a few of them couples celebra-

ting their wedding at the famous tourist town, as "Operation Sindoor".

Vermillion (sindoor) is associated with married women in Indian tradition.

The picture of a distraught Himanshi Narwal

sitting beside the body of her husband - Navy Lieutenant Vinay Narwal - in the meadow became the defining image of the tragedy, which sparked nationwide outrage and demand for action against the terrorists and their handlers. The couple were married for less than a week and were on honeymoon in Pahalgam.

Dinesh Mirania of Raipur and Neha had arrived to celebrate their wedding anniversary when terrorists killed him, while Kanpur-based businessman Shubham Dwivedi and Aishanya were there after tying the knot in February.

MOCK DRILLS ACROSS COUNTRY

Mock drills simulating multiple hostile scenarios like air raids, multiple fire emergencies, and search and rescue operations were carried out in several states and Union Territories (UTs) on Wednesday as part of the nationwide mega civil defence mock drill 'Operation Abhyaas'.

The mock drills which were announced by the Ministry of Home affairs on Monday took place a few hours after the Indian military launched Operation Sindoor, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in a strong response to the terror attack in Pahalgam. The April 22 attack, carried out by the terror organisation The Resistance Front, killed 26 civilians.

The exercise was carried out in several states and UTs including Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

In the national capital Delhi, PCR vans and fire engines were stationed at multiple locations while there was a heavy deployment of security personnel and civil defence volun-



NDRF personnel conduct a drill as part of a nationwide civil defence drill, in Varanasi

CRASH, BLACKOUT, CAMOUFLAGE Training of civilians in the event of hostile attacks, provision of crash blackout measures, early camouflaging of vital installations, verifying the response of civil defence services, evaluating the preparedness of evacuation plans and their execution were also noted to be examined during the drill.

teers.

Blaring sirens, residents rushing to safer places, injured people being carried away on stretchers -- these were some of the scenes that played out across the 55 locations where mock se-

curity drills were carried out by authorities in Delhi.

The blackout, which took place from 8 pm to 8.15 pm, was carried out by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to simulate emergency wartime conditions.

MILITARY THEATRE

INDO-PAK WAR (1947)

Also known as the First Kashmir War, it broke out over the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir after Independence. It began in October 1947 when Pakistan-backed tribal militias invaded the princely state. After the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian Union by Maharaja Hari Singh, India sent troops to defend the region, leading to full-scale conflict.

It continued till January 1949 when a UN-mediated ceasefire was implemented, resulting in the division of Kashmir between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control.

2ND INDO-PAK WAR (1965)

It broke out on August 5, 1965 over Kashmir when thousands of Pakistani soldiers, disguised as local insurgents, infiltrated the Indian territory across the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

The covert operation, codenamed 'Operation Gibraltar' aimed to destabilise the region and provoke local uprisings. India responded by launching a military counter-offensive, which escalated into full-scale combat along the international border.

The war continued until September 23, 1965, when both sides agreed to a ceasefire, brokered by the ershwile Soviet Union and the US.

BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR (1971)

It was triggered by Pakistani military's crackdown on East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and its demand for independence. India entered the war in support of the

Bangladeshi independence movement.

After intense fighting on both the eastern and western fronts, Pakistani forces surrendered on December 16, 1971.

The war led to the creation of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

KARGIL WAR (1999)

The high-altitude conflict was fought from May to July after Pakistani troops and terrorists occupied peaks in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

India launched 'Operation Vijay' to reclaim the territory, supported by the Air Force's 'Operation Safed Sagar'.

The war ended on July 26 with India regaining control, a day now marked as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'.

URI ATTACK (2016)

It followed a terrorist attack on an Army base in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir, on September 18, 2016, in which 19 soldiers were killed.

India conducted a surgical strike on September 28-29 across the LoC. The Indian Army targeted multiple terrorist launch pads in PoK, claiming significant casualties among terrorists preparing to infiltrate.

PULWAMA ATTACK (2019)

IAF carried out airstrikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, on February 26, 2019.

It was in response to the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel. Using fighter jets, India targeted the camp deep inside Pakistani territory, marking the first such airstrike since the 1971 war.

Barrage of lies: PIB on claims by Pak side

PTI NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday dismissed claims on Pakistan social media about 'Operation Sindoor', saying the neighbouring country has unleashed a "full-blown disinformation offensive" with "lies" and digital theatrics to control the narrative.

A series of posts by the Press Information Bureau's Fact-Checking Unit said pro-Pakistan social media handles were sharing old photos of crashes of IAF aircraft and claiming they were shot down by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor on Wednesday.

"Beware of old images shared by pro-Pakistan

handles in the present context," PIB FactCheck said in a post on X.

"Following India's decisive strike under 'Operation Sindoor', Pakistan has unleashed a full-blown disinformation offensive -- a desperate attempt to shift the focus and control the narrative with a barrage of lies and digital theatrics," officials said.

"The video being shared is from February 2025 and depicts the crash of an Indian Air Force (IAF) Mirage 2000 aircraft near Shrivipuri, Gwalior, which occurred during a routine training mission," it said, referring to social media posts by pro-Pakistan handles about a fighter jet clash.

WHAT'S IN PAK ARSENAL?

Pakistan possesses a wide range of missiles capable of striking targets at various distances. FP takes a close look

Shaheen Short-Range Missiles: Shaheen-I: Range of 750 km, Shaheen-IA: 900 km and Shaheen-I A: 1,000 km.

Medium-Range Ballistic Missiles: Shaheen-II: 2,500 km and Shaheen-III: 2,750 km

Ghauri-I has a range of 1,500 km, while Ghauri-II can strike targets between 2,000–2,300 km.

Ababeel missile is also part of the arsenal, with a range of 2,200 km and capable of delivering multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs).

Other powerful systems include the Hatf missile series (Haf I to VIII), cruise missiles, anti-tank guided missiles, and tactical rockets such as Fatah-I, II, III.

Short-range ballistic missiles like Nasr, Ghaznavi, and Abdali also bolster Pakistan's battlefield capabilities. Moreover, the military possesses anti-radiation missiles sourced from China and Brazil.

Armored Corps: Tanks from Pakistan, China, and Ukraine Pakistan's Armored Corps is equipped with advanced tanks developed through local and international collaborations:

VT4 MBT: A third-generation

tank made in China.

Al-Khalid: Co-produced by Pakistan and China, equipped with a smoothbore gun.

Al-Zarrar: An upgraded version of the Chinese Type 59 tank.

Type-69: Chinese MBT with a 105 mm gun.

Haider Tank: Based on the VT4 design with local enhancements.

DRONE POWER IN SKIES

Pakistan's drone fleet includes Uqab, Burraq, and Shahpar, designed to neutralize threats before they even appear on enemy radar — providing a significant tactical advantage in modern warfare.

NAVAL STRENGTH IN DEEP WATERS

The Pakistan Navy has repeatedly demonstrated its strength beneath and above the surface of the seas. It is equipped with advanced anti-ship & anti-surface guided missiles, including:

Babur Cruise Missiles (I, II, III) Chinese-made Zarb Missiles Harbah, CM-302, C-802A, and US-made Harpoon Block II

Exocet SM39 Guided Missile, and RBU-1200, a Russian anti-submarine rocket launcher

Pakistan Navy's strategic deterrent is reinforced by its submarine fleet and cutting-edge naval systems, capable of defending the nation in any future maritime conflict.

India ready to 'retaliate resolutely' if...: NSA

PTI NEW DELHI

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Wednesday told his counterparts in various countries that India has no intent to escalate tensions but is prepared to "retaliate resolutely" if Pakistan does so, officials said.

Doval briefed his counterparts in the US, UK, Saudi Arabia and Japan about India's missile strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He also established contact with Russia and France, officials said.

NAME CHANGE

I Deepak Ramesh Gandhi I have changed my name new name is Deepak Gandhi s/o, shri Ramesh Gandhi add. 21, soumya estate BDA road awadhpuri Bhopal pincode 462022, in future known as Deepak Gandhi in all govt. /non govt. Documents.

Office of The Executive Engineer P.W.D DIVISION RAISEN (M.P.)

NIT No. 02/SAC/2025-26/Raisen

Raisen, Date-25-04-2025

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal www.mpntenders.gov.in Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender ID	District	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PRC) (Rs. in	Remark
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2025_PWDPR_419720_1	Raisen	Construction	CONSTRUCTION OF PMGSY ROAD VILLAGE PRLATO DRIVING TRAINNING CENTER LENGTH 0.90 KM.	1st	127.88	
2	2025_PWDPR_420269_1	Raisen	Repair work	SPECIAL REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS IN NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN RAISEN SECTION UNDER SUB DIVISION RAISEN	1st	19.90	
3	2025_PWDPR_420274_1	Raisen	Repair work	SPECIAL REPAIR AND MAINTANCE WORK GOVT RESIDENTIAL AND NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING OF SULTANPUR AND SANCHI SECTION UNDER SUB DIVISION RAISEN	1st	19.70	
4	2025_PWDPR_420280_1	Raisen	Repair work	SPECIAL REPAIR AND MAINTANCE WORK GOVT RESIDENTIAL BUILDING OF RAISEN SECTION UNDER SUB DIVISION RAISEN	1st	17.75	
5	2025_PWDPR_420283_1	Raisen	Repair work	CONSTRUCTION OF OF BOUNDARY WALL AT DEGREE COLLAGE GARHAGANU	1st	16.92	
Total						202.15	

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document on line is Dated 16.05.2025 upto (17:30) Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

G-12496

प्रीति श्री मधुका हा हिरिया, बनसो पर न कर जलवाया

Executive Engineer
PWD Division Raisen

CASH ROW| The panel's report contains evidence that money was found at the judge's residence; CJI seeks reply

Justice Yashwant Varma indicted by SC panel

PTI
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court-appointed panel has confirmed the cash discovery allegations against Allahabad High Court's Justice Yashwant Varma in its inquiry report, sources have said. Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna is also learnt to have nudged the judge to step down in view of the critical findings in the report.

The CJI has forwarded the panel's report to Justice Varma and sought his reply following the principle of natural justice, the sources said.

The report was submitted to the CJI by the three-member panel comprising Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice G S Sandhawalia and Justice Anu Sivaraman of the Karnataka High Court. It was final-



ised on May 3. The panel analysed evidence and recorded the statements of over 50 people, including Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora and Delhi Fire Service chief who were among the first responders to the fire incident at Justice Varma's Lutyens Delhi residence at around 11.35 pm on March 14. He was Delhi High Court judge at the time.

Sources said the panel found clear evidence to confirm the allegations that a huge stash of cash was found in the storeroom of Justice Varma's official residence at

the time of fire incident. The allegation was repeatedly denied by the judge in his reply to the Delhi High Court chief justice.

The sources said CJI Khanna, who is set to superannuate on May 13, is likely to take the issue to its logical conclusion and has informally discussed the findings of the report with senior collegium members of the apex court.

The controversy was raised following a news report in the cash discovery row and led to several steps, including a preliminary in-

quiry by Delhi High Court Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya, judicial work being taken away from Justice Varma in the Delhi High Court, and later his transfer to the Allahabad High Court sans judicial work.

On March 24, the apex court collegium recommended the repatriation of Justice Varma to his parent Allahabad High Court.

On March 28, the top court asked the chief justice of the Allahabad High Court not to assign any judicial work for now to Justice Varma.

NIA urges people to share photos, videos related to Pahalgam terror attack

PTI
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday appealed to all tourists, visitors and local people who might have any more information, photographs or videos relating to the Pahalgam terror attack to immediately contact it.

The probe agency has already taken possession of a sizable number of photographs and videos showing various aspects of the attack and is examining them, officials said.

NIA, which is officially in charge of the investigation into the terror attack, is keen to examine the content in thorough detail to search for any possible clues to the assailants and their modus operandi, they said.

Tourists and others might



have, advertently or inadvertently, seen, heard or clicked some relevant detail that could help NIA unravel the conspiracy behind the unprecedented attack on tourists in Kashmir, officials said.

"It has now decided to scale up its efforts even more intensely to ensure that no useful information or evidence is missed out in its investigation into the horrendous crime

against humanity," the NIA said in a statement.

The NIA has urged all such people to call up the agency on 96-54-958-816 and/or 011-24368800 and share the information.

A senior NIA official will then connect with the caller and arrange for the relevant information/photos/videos etc to be shared with the agency, the statement said.

Assam: Drugs worth Rs 9.5cr seized, 3 held

IAN S
GUWAHATI

Assam Police seized drugs worth Rs 9.5 crore and arrested three drug peddlers, including a woman, in two separate operations, officials said on Wednesday.

An Assam Police spokesman said that based on credible intelligence regarding the transportation of contraband from Silchar (southern Assam) to Guwahati via the Silchar--Coimbatore Express train, a team from Panbazar Police station was deployed at Guwahati railway station on Wednesday.

A female suspect was identified and apprehended upon the train's arrival, he said.

CBI chief Sood's tenure extended by a year

PTI
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday extended CBI Director Praveen Sood's tenure by a year, the first such extension that came after a new law gave the government the power to extend the federal agency chief's tenure to up to a maximum of five years. Sood took over as the CBI chief on May 25, 2023 for a two-year term.

The decision to extend his tenure was taken in a meeting of the selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and comprising Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday, officials said.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), based on the recommendations of the selection committee, approved Sood's extension for a period of one year beyond May 24, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

POSSESSION NOTICE - (for immovable property) Rule 8-1)					
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IFL HFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IFL HFL, for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (b) of section 13 of the Act, if the borrower clears the dues of the "IFL HFL" together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by "IFL HFL", and no further step shall be taken by "IFL HFL" for transfer or sale of the secured assets.					
Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-borrower(s)	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	Total Outstanding Due (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	
Mr. Imrat Singh Mrs. Devinder Jaitir Imrat Nika Center (Prospect No.IL10509561)	All that piece and parcel of Patwar Hakka No. 38, Ward No. 09, House No. 24, Village Suran, Tehsil Indragiri, District Dalia, Madhya Pradesh, 475685, Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT): Property Type: Land, Area, Built, Up, Area, Carpet, Area, Property Area: 336.00, 326.00, 260.00	Rs. 289563.00/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Three Only)	08-Oct-2024	05-May-2025	
Mr. Laans Sen Mrs. Pramod Kumar Sen Laam Center (Prospect No.IL10529423)	All that piece and parcel of PH.N.60, House No. 190, Ward No. 15, PH.N.60.1, Situated at Village Kotara, Dalia, Madhya Pradesh, 475682, Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT): Property Type: Land, Area, Built, Up, Area, Carpet, Area, Property Area: 600.00, 600.00, 480.00	Rs. 422990.00/- (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Only)	23-Jan-2024	05-May-2025	
Mr. Nitesh Rawat Mrs. Purnam Rawat (Prospect No.IL10529423)	All that piece and parcel of PH.N.60, House No. 190, Ward No. 15, PH.N.60.1, Situated at Village Kotara, Dalia, Madhya Pradesh, 475682, Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT): Property Type: Land, Area, Built, Up, Area, Carpet, Area, Property Area: 600.00, 600.00, 480.00	Rs. 350093.00/- (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Three Only)	12-Aug-2024	05-May-2025	
Mr. Tripathi Singh Rawat Mrs. Rungel Rawat Harmandi Durgah Dary And Korana Store (Prospect No.IL10467336)	All that piece and parcel of Patwar Hakka No. 42, Having survey no.s 245,486,5012,5041,563, Situated in vil Thel, Post Sion, Near Charam S G Kriehar, Indragiri, Dalia, Madhya Pradesh, India, 475681, Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT): Property Type: Land, Area, Built, Up, Area, Carpet, Area, Property Area: 1500.00, 1200.00, 960.00	Rs. 454993.00/- (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Three Only)	12-Dec-2024	05-May-2025	
Mr. Vijay Banshakar Mrs. Bandra Mrs. Meenka Banshakar Vijay Tailor Shop (Prospect No.IL10573371)	All that piece and parcel of Patwar Hakka No. 36, Ward No. 7, House No. 115, Village Sion, Tehsil Indragiri, District Dalia, Madhya Pradesh, 475681, Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT): Property Type: Land, Area, Built, Up, Area, Carpet, Area, Property Area: 1500.00, 1100.00, 880.00	Rs. 264440.00/- (Rupees Two Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Only)	12-Sep-2024	05-May-2025	
For Further Details Please Contact To Authorized Officer At Branch Office: D-1, Ground Floor, Basant Vihar, Gwalior - 474002, for Corporate Office: Plot No.98, Phase-iv, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.					
Place: Gwalior Date: 08/05/2025			Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IFL Home Finance Limited		

GTL Limited
Registered Office: 6th Floor, Building A, Plot No. EL-207, MIDC, TTC Industrial Area, Mahape, Navi Mumbai - 400 710, Maharashtra, India. | Tel: +91 22 2761 2929 | Fax: +91 22 2768 9990
Email: gtlshares@gtlimited.com | Website: www.gtlimited.com | CIN: L40300MH1987PLC045657

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025				
Particulars	(₹ lakhs unless otherwise stated)			
	Quarter ended 31-Mar-25	Period ended 31-Mar-25	Quarter ended 31-Mar-24	
	Audited	Audited	Audited	
1 Total Income from operations	7,062.80	26,022.40	21,318.98	
2 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and / or extraordinary items)	2,450.83	2,541.56	3,760.61	
3 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and / or extraordinary items)	2,606.09	2,696.82	21,079.80	
4 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and / or extraordinary items)	1,121.09	(838.18)	21,079.80	
5 Total Profit / (Loss) for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	1,128.45	(796.21)	21,062.68	
6 Paid up equity share capital (face value of ₹ 10 per share)	15,729.68	15,729.68	15,729.68	
7 Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	N.A.	(6,18,661.65)	(6,17,865.44)	
8 Earnings Per Share (EPS) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Face value of ₹ 10/- each)*	0.71	(0.54)	13.40	
*Basic & Diluted, not annualized				

- Notes:**
- The above financial results and the notes thereto have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on May 7, 2025.
 - The financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2025 are in compliance with Indian Accounting Standard (Ind - AS) notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (as amended) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognized accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
 - Modified opinion of the Auditor - As mentioned in Note no 8 of the financial results the Company has neither paid nor provided interest on its borrowings during the financial year. Had such interest been recognized, the finance cost and interest liability for the year ended March 31, 2025 would have been more by ₹ 38,344.00 lakhs. Consequently the reported loss after Other Comprehensive Income of the Company for the year ended March 31, 2025 would have been a loss of ₹ 39,140.21 lakhs and Earnings per share (EPS) would have been negative ₹ 24.91.
 - The above is an extract of the detailed format of the quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 / 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and the Company's website www.gtlimited.com.



For GTL Limited

Sunil S. Valavalkar
Whole-time Director
(DIN: 01799698)

Date: May 7, 2025
Place: Navi Mumbai

Barrage of lies: Sources on claims by Pak side on Operation Sindoor

Online Report
NEW DELHI

In the wake of several misleading claims by the Pakistani side following India's precision strikes on nine locations in the country, sources have dubbed the campaign a "disinformation offensive" by the neighbouring country.

The operation - which was India's response to last month's Pahalgam terror attack - involving 25 missiles, Kamikaze drones and precision bombs, began around 1 am on Wednesday and was planned so well that it ended in just 25 minutes.

Soon after the strikes, the sources said, the Pakistani misinformation machine kicked into gear and began churning out several misleading claims. Follow updates here.

"Pro-Pakistan social media handles and even influential political figures are deliberately spreading fake news, fabricating stories of miraculous military victories and heroic retaliation that simply do not exist," a source said.

"In a blatant effort to hijack the narrative and distract from the reality on the ground, Pakistan's state-aff-



India hit nine locations, including the headquarters of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

iliated accounts have turned to their familiar playbook: recycling outdated images, misrepresenting old videos, and inventing completely fabricated claims. Their goal is clear - to flood the information space with falsehoods so quickly and overwhelmingly that it becomes difficult to separate fact from fiction," the source added.

Citing examples, the sources said one of the most widely shared false claims is that the Pakistan army had shot down a Rafale jet of the Indian Air Force near Bahawalpur, which is home to the headquarters of the Masood Azhar-led Jaish-e-Mohammed. The image was fact-checked by PIB Fact Check, which revealed that it was from a MiG-21 crash in

Punjab's Moga in 2021.

Atatullah Tarar, the Pakistani minister for information and broadcasting, claimed during an interview that, in the face of shelling, the Indian Army raised a white flag and surrendered at the Chora Complex along the Line of Control. A purported video of this is also being shared on social media.

"By lending official weight to an unverified and clearly false story, Tarar not only misled his own citizens but also actively contributed to the propaganda campaign," the source said.

"Pakistan has unleashed a full-blown disinformation offensive - a desperate attempt to shift the focus and control the narrative with a barrage of lies and digital theatrics," the source added.

Indian astronauts' footprints will be on Moon: Modi

New Delhi: PM Modi said

on Wednesday that India was marching ahead with renewed confidence in the field of space exploration and its astronauts' footprints will be on the Moon. Mars and Venus were also on the country's radar for exploration missions, he stressed, in a pre-recorded message for the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX) 2025.

PM Modi said for India, space was about exploration as well as empowerment, and listed out plans to set up the Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035.

ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd Office Number 201-B, 2nd Floor, Road No. 1 Plot No-B3, WIFI IT Park, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane (West) - 400604

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (₹s)	Name of Branch
1.	Reva Chand Panjwani & Sarita Panjwani- LBGWA00005150204 & LBGWA00006420116 & TBGWA00006265123	Old Municipal House No.13/474, New House No. 51/1014, JB Magharam Ki Gali, Near Jhulelal Mandir, Madhoganj Nagar, Tehsil Lashkar, Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior 474001/ May 03, 2025	January 04, 2025 / Rs.15,26,561.08/-	Gwalior

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: May 08, 2025, Place: Gwalior
Sincerely Authorised Signatory, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF OM SHRI SHUBH LABH AGRITECH PRIVATE LIMITED (U74999MP2017PTC043567)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS		Om Shri Shubh Labh Agritech Private Limited
1. Name of corporate debtor	23/06/2017	
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	Companies Act	
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated/ registered	ROC Gwalior (U74999MP2017PTC043567)	
4. Corporate Identification No./ Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	Infant Of IITM College Near Hazra Police Station, Main Link Road, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India, 474015	
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Date of Order 05/05/2025 (Order obtained from the website of NCLT on 06.05.2025)	
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	01/11/2025 (180 days from the Insolvency commencement date 05.05.2025)	
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	Mr. Rahul Anand Registration No. 693/PPA-003/PP-N00166/2018/11995	
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Addt. Flat No. 9A, Orchard Residents, Sandharm Sector A, Kolar Road, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, 462042 Email: crip.omshrilabh@gmail.com	
9. Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Addt. Flat No. 9A, Orchard Residents, Sandharm Sector A, Kolar Road, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, 462042 Email: crip.omshrilabh@gmail.com	
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	19/05/2025	
11. Last date for submission of claims	Not Applicable	
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (8A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Not Applicable	
13. Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorized Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not Applicable	
14. (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	Weblink: https://bitagya.in/en/home/downloads Physical Address: Not Applicable	

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal Indore Bench has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the Om Shri Shubh Labh Agritech Private Limited on 05/05/2025 (Order received on 06.05.2025). The creditors of Om Shri Shubh Labh Agritech Private Limited, are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 19/05/2025 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10. The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. Those creditors who intended to submit the claim in physical mode, can submit at the address mentioned in entry No. 10. A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No.13 to act as authorised representative of the class in Form CA - Not applicable. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties. Sd/- Date: 08.05.2025 Place: Bhopal Interim Resolution Professional In the matter of Om Shri Shubh Labh Agritech Private Limited IP Registration No. IBS/PPA-003/PP-N00166/2018/11995 AFA Certificate No. -AA3/11995/02/311225/301170 valid up to 31st December 2025

IIFL FINANCE
CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797
Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No. B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604
Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 40666554
Email: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted on 12.05.2025 from 10:00 AM at following district Centres **BHOPAL, KALMA NAGAR, KOTRA SULTANABAD, BHOPAL - 462003**. Any change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the auction cannot be held on the date mentioned here in or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir.

Gold Loan A/C No.: GL3282517, GL34381641, GL24872907, GL25273166, GL26716058, GL31957023, GL32627992, GL32651093, GL32661763, GL32680785, GL32818120, GL32821274, GL32833358, GL33357801, GL33963864, GL33982058, GL34247684, GL29371676, GL33783941, GL33789064, GL34059889, GL25649211, GL27858179, GL28696008, GL30693478, GL32641017, GL34288160, GL34306509, GL34313372, GL24522686, GL24708307, GL25345949, GL26775239, GL27172391, GL31325388, GL31341005, GL32812799, GL33933361, GL33985297, GL33991332, GL34017045, GL34049486, GL34115991, GL25961588, GL31402601, GL31546374, GL31546393, GL32218362, GL34010695, GL25179540, GL25223500, GL25296800, GL27487091, GL33571969, GL33589402, GL34052876, GL34086945, GL30300747, GL32828217, GL34234597, GL31461264, GL32756414, GL34117418, GL34135937, GL34174647, GL34192211, GL32873782, GL33012538, GL33834638, GL33860542, GL34036068.

The Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regarding quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s) pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.

Place: BHOPAL
Date: 08.05.2025
Sd/- AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY
IIFL FINANCE LIMITED

Briefs

KOLHAPUR

Jaysingpur gets museum

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde inaugurated a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, accompanied by a museum and library, in Jaysingpur. The Rs7 crore project, built on state-donated land, aims to inspire youth. Shinde announced a Rs250 crore package for civic infrastructure, including a stadium and water supply scheme. Jaysingpur MLA Rajendra Patil-Yadavkar was felicitated for spearheading the long-pending project. Guardian Minister Prakash Abitkar and other officials attended the event.

PIMPRI-CHINCHWAD

Singh thanks CM, Dy CMs

Municipal Corporation (PCMC) Commissioner & Administrator Shekhar Singh on Friday thanked Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Deputy CMs Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde after the civic body was ranked second in the state in the Municipal



Corporation category under the final assessment of the Chief Minister's 100 Days Action Plan. Scoring 85.71 out of 100, PCMC stood just behind Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation, which secured the top spot with 86.29 points. PCMC's performance was distinguished by innovations such as an accessible, real-time website, AI-powered grievance redressal, GIS-based property tax reforms, smart sanitation facilities, and predictive analytics to improve civic service response times.

PUNE

Netizens slam youth's reel

A young student stopped a PMPML bus just to create an Instagram Reel. The video of this has gone viral on social media. Netizens have demanded punishment for the student. "If anyone is caught creating a Reel on the roads, they should be punished strictly. Such acts disrupt public order," said a user. "The Instagram account of this student should be deleted and he should be punished for this act," said another user.

MUNICIPAL APATHY | Residents allege eateries encroaching on free space

Encroachments, neglect plague iconic Saras Baug

Indu Bhagat

PUNE

Encroachments, lack of maintenance and poor sanitation at Saras Baug—one of Pune's prominent historical gardens—have raised concerns among residents, highlighting the Pune Municipal Corporation's (PMC) apathy towards preserving tourist landmarks.

Saras Baug, built by Nanasahab Peshwa and located at the foothills of Parvati, is a major attraction in the heart of the city. However, residents allege that its deteriorating condition is both an eyesore and a safety hazard. The main entrance is in poor shape, with the approach road heavily encroached by food stalls, forcing visitors to navigate narrow and unhygienic lanes.

Speaking to The Free Press Journal (FPJ), Srikanth Kakade, a 63-year-old resident who visits the garden daily for morning walks, said, "The eateries and food stalls have encroached on the footpath and even expanded beyond it to place their tables and chairs. There's no proper drainage. At night, when they wash their stalls, dirty water flows directly onto the road. This not only creates a foul stench but also endangers vehicles due to the narrowed road. People even park their



two-wheelers in the remaining space, making the situation worse. I go for a walk to breathe fresh air, but all I get is a dirty, stinking smell."

Echoing similar sentiments, Shirish Shinde, a resident of Guruwar Peth who visits Saras Baug daily to offer prayers to the Sarasbaug Ganapati, shared his distress with the FPJ.

"That place is holy, and still there's so much filth. The dog population in the garden has increased. They scare and even bite visitors. The entire road is encroached upon by shop owners, and there's no space for people to walk freely. Authorities must take

"The eateries and food stalls have encroached on the footpath and even expanded beyond it to place their tables and chairs. There's no proper drainage. At night, when they wash their stalls, dirty water flows directly onto the road."

— Srikanth Kakade, morning walker

"The entire road is encroached upon by shop owners, and there's no space for people to walk freely. Authorities must take strict action."

— Shirish Shinde, resident

strict action. What impression are we giving tourists? It should be clean and tidy so one can experience nature and its beauty," Shinde said. Social activist Sarang

Yadhavkar highlighted that the issue of encroached footpaths extends beyond Saras Baug. "Encroachment is not limited to this area—it's rampant across Pune. In



Kalyani Nagar, footpaths have been blocked for over a month. Water supply pipes belonging to L&T, the contractor for the 24x7 water supply scheme, have been lying on the footpath for months. I filed a complaint with the PMC," Yadhavkar told the FPJ, asking, "Who is responsible if a mishap occurs—PMC, L&T, Pune Police or citizens?"

Responding to the FPJ, a PMC official, who didn't want to be named, said, "Action is underway. We are removing the pipes from the footpath and also taking action regularly regarding footpath encroachments."

Sinhagad Road woes continue

Ankit Shukla/Indu Bhagat

PUNE

The traffic woes of Sinhagad Road residents are not seeming to end anytime soon. A week after the road saw a 6-km traffic jam which led to delays of at least four hours, the road is seeing a logjam from Dhayari Phata to Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk every day, which has frustrated commuters, with signals being shut and just one traffic personnel on the spot in the scorching heat on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Rupali Chakankar, who resides in Dhayari, along with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Mahesh Pokale and several other local politicians, met Additional Police Commissioner Manoj Patil, Aniruddha Pawaskar from the Road Department of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) at the Sinhagad Road to review the traffic situation and discuss a remedial plan.

Speed breaker removed

On Tuesday night, a speed breaker near Funtime Theatre on Sinhagad Road



was identified and removed by the PMC. Additionally, the PMC initiated the work at Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk to manage and improve traffic flow on Sinhagad Road, which included removing vehicles from the traffic post, reclaiming the occupied space and removing the cycle track, informed a PMC official.

"The traffic police chowki situated below the Wadgaon bridge will be removed soon. We are also planning to provide a substitute route for commuters on that stretch to help ease congestion," Patil told The Free Press Journal (FPJ).

Patil had visited Sinhagad Road on Saturday to assess the ongoing traffic issues. He had given instructions to increase the signal timing at the road leading to Dhayari junction at Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk and to remove roadside encroachments near the Wadgaon Bridge. He also directed officials to shut down illegal parking spots. Four to five key bottlenecks were identified during the visit. The PMC acted on these suggestions on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The bridge has no faults, it's actually reducing the time. Earlier, it would take 20 minutes from Vithalwadi to

Funtime theatre, but now it takes only three minutes," Pokale told the FPJ.

Vithalwadi to Funtime theatre, but now it takes only three minutes," Pokale told the FPJ. "But the main traffic issue now is occurring at Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk as it is encroached by the fruit and vegetable sellers and autorickshaws, due to which that area has become a bottleneck. The authorities visited the site on May 3, and now they are removing the cycle track to widen the road by a few inches. We have suggested changing the signal timings to reduce traffic," he added.

Netizens slam PMPML driver

Staff Reporter

PUNE

The Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML) bus drivers have been accused of violating traffic rules.

In one such incident, a PMPML driver was caught driving while on the phone. A Reddit user shared the picture, which drew outrage on social media, with many slamming it as "typical Punekar" behaviour.

"Oh, this is so dangerously common here. I've been in such cabs where one scrolled reels all the way. One scrolled Facebook and then switched to Instagram Reels and then put on a movie. One just kept watching YouTube Shorts," a user commented.

"There's a new low of stupidity seen nowadays in Pune. Cab drivers, auto drivers are watching reels on phones while at stoplights or even in slow-moving traffic," another user shared.

A third user stated that in Bengaluru, drivers are instructed to either deposit their phones in lockers at their respective depots or switch them off before getting behind the wheel.

BJP's Kunal Tilak to contest PMC polls

Gaurav Kadam

PUNE

Kunal Tilak, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Maharashtra spokesperson and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Maharashtra vice-president, is all set to contest the forthcoming Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) elections.

Tilak was eager to contest the 2024 state polls from the Kasba Peth Assembly constituency. However, the saffron party chose to give the ticket to Hemant Rasane instead. With the next Assembly polls five years away, speaking to The Free Press Journal (FPJ), Tilak said he chose to contest the PMC polls.

"I wanted to contest the Assembly polls, but I didn't get the ticket. The next election is five years away, so I've decided to contest the PMC polls instead. I need to start somewhere, right? I must earn the mandate of the people and then prove my performance to my party," Tilak said.

When asked whether contesting the corporation polls would be perceived as a step down, he said, "No, not at all. I don't think it's a step down for me. Instead, I consider it a stepping stone in my political career. If you look at the BJP's structure, there's a natural progression—a corporator becomes an MLA, an MLA becomes an MP, and so on. Only a few lucky ones get to become MLAs or MPs directly."

Asked about the key issues he plans to highlight to voters in the lead-up to the polls, Tilak said he presents a different type of politics—the politics of development. "I am young, educated and honest. I come from a family that has maintained its integrity. I have already been speaking on



"I don't think it's a step down for me. Instead, I consider it a stepping stone in my political career."

— Kunal Tilak, Spokesperson, Maharashtra BJP

developmental works, traffic, roads and restoration of old properties in my constituency and will continue to do so. Besides, by being accessible, I will continue to gain the confidence of the people," he concluded.

With the Supreme Court directing the Maharashtra government to hold municipal elections within four months, political activity has picked up in Pune.

According to PMC officials, if the elections are held based on the existing population data and previous ward structure, the city will have 44 wards with four corporators per ward, taking the total to 166 corporators.

Until 2022, PMC had 162 corporators—a number likely to rise due to the inclusion of 34 merged villages.

PMPML rolls out pilot project to monitor bus health

Ankit Shukla

PUNE

The Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML) has decided to fit "On Board Devices" in its buses to curb sudden breakdowns on the roads.

Speaking to The Free Press Journal (FPJ), Nitin Narvekar, the Managing Director of PMPML, said, "The cases of breakdown increase, especially in the summer season, due to heat. Soon, a health monitoring system known as the 'On Board Device' will be set up in all PMPML buses. This device will alert bus drivers by indicating a signal (mini light blinking). The device's functional system will be connected directly to the control

room. As the driver informs about the blinking light, that particular bus will be checked technically and mechanically. With the help of this device, it is easier to detect faults in the buses, including coolant shortages, engine overheating and other technical glitches."

"In the initial stage, we have installed this in four buses. Its analysis will be done, and once the results are positive, it will soon be fitted in all the buses. This will be very helpful—knowing about upcoming faults will help maintain the buses, and there will be very few chances of a breakdown on the road. Earlier, there were no devices installed, and the driver was unaware of the glitches," he added.

Drunk man bludgeons male friend to death

Ankit Shukla

PUNE

Pune Police have arrested a 40-year-old man for murdering his male friend for rejecting his sexual advances, officials said on Tuesday. The incident took place on May 5 near Maldhakka Chowk, they added.

According to the police, the accused has been identified as Bheem Gaikwad (40), a resident of Latur district, while the deceased is Kishor Kamble (35), a native of Satara.

"Kamble was found dead at the roadside near Maldhakka

Chowk on May 5. In the medical report, it was found that Kamble was assaulted with a heavy stone on his head and died due to severe blood loss. Later, police detained Gaikwad after watching the CCTV footage. He was arrested within the Samarth Police Station jurisdiction," the police said.

Inspector Umesh Gitte said, "At the time of the incident, they both were drunk. Over the demand for sexual favours, an argument occurred between them, which later became the cause of Kamble's death."

Indu Bhagat

PUNE

The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), in a bid to promote sustainable waste management, has decided to explore options to procure electric cycles for garbage collection.

The city generates more than 2,100 tonnes of solid waste daily, which is collected and transported to solid waste processing plants located in different parts of the city. The PMC motor vehicle department spends around Rs113 crore per year on vehicle maintenance, including fuel, repairs,

maintenance and staff salaries.

The city's 4,000 waste pickers—most of whom are women—collect garbage daily. These workers provide door-to-door waste collection services to over 40 lakh residents, covering nearly 68% of the city's garbage collection.

Remarkably, Pune's plastic recycling rate stands at 37%—over three times the national average—largely thanks to the efforts of these waste pickers.

Traditionally, sanitary workers have used pushcarts for door-to-door collection, helping the civic



body implement decentralised waste management. This system enhances waste segregation, triples recycling

rates compared to mechanised systems, and creates four times more employment. However, the work is

physically demanding, causing significant fatigue and strain for the waste pickers.

To ease this burden, a group of committed waste workers known as the Hardworking Panchayat has partnered with Tata Motors and Social Alpha to electrify 150 pushcarts. Delhi-based startup Accelero Vehicles has developed special electric kits that can be fitted onto existing carts, designed with input from waste pickers to meet their specific needs.

This initiative, part of Tata Motors' CSR and Affirmative Action efforts, aims to improve the working condi-

tions and dignity of waste pickers in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Initially, 150 e-carts (5% of the 3,000 total carts in use) will be deployed for a three-month trial period. The results will be evaluated jointly by waste pickers and the PMC. If successful, the model could be expanded to benefit sanitation workers and waste handlers across India.

Additionally, specialised training programmes are planned to support waste pickers, including skills for horticultural work, broadening their livelihood opportunities.

Briefs

AHMEDABAD
Vande Bharat to have more AC chair car coaches

Western Railway is set to add four additional AC Chair Car coaches to the 20901/02 Mumbai Central–Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express. Until now, the train had 16 coaches, including 2 Executive Chair Cars and 14 AC Chair Cars. With the addition, the total number of coaches will increase to 20. This will raise the seating capacity from 1,128 to 1,440, allowing more passengers to enjoy a comfortable journey. According to railway officials, the decision was taken after observing consistently high occupancy rates and anticipating future travel demand on this popular route. No official date has been announced for the addition of the coaches, but the semi-high-speed train is expected to operate with 20 coaches by next week. Currently, the 16-coach Vande Bharat Express comprises two Executive Chair Cars (EC) with a total of 104 seats and 14 AC Chair Cars (CC) with 1,024 seats, totaling 1,128 seats. With the addition of four AC Chair Cars, the total seating capacity will increase to 1,440.

SURAT
Fire at Surat Mission Hospital

A major fire broke out at the Seventh Day Adventist Mission Hospital in the Athwa Lines area of Surat, causing panic among patients and hospital staff. Thick black smoke was seen billowing from the ground floor, prompting an urgent response from the fire brigade and local volunteers. No casualties were reported. Upon receiving the distress call, multiple fire engines rushed to the spot and immediately began firefighting operations. Firefighters worked swiftly to control the flames and evacuate those inside the building. The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation, and officials have yet to confirm how many people may have been trapped when the blaze erupted.

RTE: Notice for collecting money

Ahmedabad: Recently, the first round of admissions under the Right to Education (RTE) Act was conducted, and during this process, Anand Niketan School in Maninagar allegedly charged parents ₹69,000 for mandatory food and transportation services for newly admitted students. In response, parents filed a complaint, prompting the District Education Officer (DEO) to issue a notice to the school, demanding an explanation within 24 hours. At Anand Niketan School in Maninagar, new students from economically weaker backgrounds were granted admission to Class 1 under the RTE Act. Following the admission, the school requested parents to pay ₹69,000 for food and transportation services.

WHO IS SHE? | She was commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1999, has received commendations for her service in Op Parakram

Meet Col Sophia Qureshi, face of India’s military excellence

FPJ News Service
VADODARA

In the early hours of Wednesday, the Indian Air Force executed air strikes on nine terrorist hideouts in Pakistan under Operation Sindoor, eliminating several terrorists. The Indian Army disclosed details of this strategic strike during a press conference, with two distinguished female military officers, including Colonel Sophia Qureshi from Vadodara, Gujarat. Colonel Sophia Qureshi currently serves as a prominent officer in the Indian Army's Corps of Signals. Renowned for her exemplary service, she commanded India's team in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission and played a pivotal role as a key trainer. Her involvement in Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) spans over six years, beginning with her deployment in the United Nations Congo Peacekeeping Mission in 2006. Hailing from Vadodara, Gujarat, Colonel Sophia Qureshi pursued her education in biochemistry at MS



University. Her family has a rich military background; her grandfather and father both served in the army. Colonel Sophia Qureshi is married to Major Tajuddin Qureshi, an Army officer in the Mechanized Infantry, and they have a son named Sameer Qureshi. Colonel Sophia Qureshi completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biochemistry from MS

University before joining the Indian Army through a Short Service Commission in 1999 at the age of 17. She underwent rigorous training at the Officers' Training Academy in Chennai and was commissioned as a Lieutenant. Throughout her career, she has earned commendations for her exceptional contributions during various operations, including Operation Parakram and flood relief

efforts in North-East India. Colonel Sophia Qureshi led a 40-member contingent of the Indian Army in 'Force 18,' a multinational military exercise held in Pune, where she represented India as the sole woman army officer. Her leadership skills and dedication were highlighted by former Chief of Defence Staff, the late Bipin Rawat, who emphasized the Indian Army's commitment to equal opportunities and responsibilities irrespective of gender. In a statement regarding Colonel Sophia Qureshi's participation in ASEAN summits, General Bipin Rawat said, "In the Army, we believe in equal opportunities and equal responsibilities. Sophia Qureshi embodies leadership qualities that transcend gender barriers, earning her role not through tokenism but through merit." Colonel Sophia Qureshi continues to inspire as a symbol of courage, leadership, and dedication within the Indian Army. Her journey from Vadodara to the global stage of military diplomacy highlighting Gujarat's pride in her achievements and contributions to national security.



Gujarat airports closed after air strike on Pak, 3200 flyers affected

FPJ News Service
/AHMEDABAD/RAJKOT

Tensions soared across Gujarat on Wednesday as India conducted a precision air strike on nine terrorist camps in Pakistan, triggering an immediate security clamp-down across the border state. Authorities swiftly shut down multiple airports, including the newly built Rajkot International Airport, and issued high alert advisories for coastal and border regions. In a rapid response to national security protocols, all flights to and from Rajkot, Bhuj, Jamnagar, and Kandla have been suspended until further notice. Ahmedabad Airport has cancelled all domestic flights bound for these cities. "This is a matter of national security. The suspension is temporary but

critical," said an airport official on condition of anonymity. The closure has left over 3,200 air passengers stranded just in Rajkot alone, with 11 flights from Air India and IndiGo cancelled today. "I was scheduled to attend a business meeting in Mumbai. This sudden cancellation has not only disrupted my plans but created panic," said Nilesh Patel, a businessman from Rajkot. Air India, issuing a public statement on X (formerly Twitter), said: "Following the closure notification of these airports by authorities, Air India is cancelling flights to and from Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh, and Rajkot till 5:29 PM on May 10. Customers will be offered free rescheduling or full refunds."

BJP sheltered Chandola lake kingpin, blames Congress

FPJ News Service
AHMEDABAD

"Why was Lalla Bihari allowed to thrive for so long, if not for BJP's political protection?" — Gujarat Congress In a scathing attack, the Gujarat Congress has accused the ruling BJP of providing political shelter to Lalla Bihari, the alleged kingpin of illegal encroachments and criminal activities around Ahmedabad's Chandola Lake. The opposition claimed that Lalla operated with impunity for years due to covert support from the BJP, which saw him as an asset for countering Congress influence in the region. The controversy escalated following a recent security crackdown triggered by the Pahalgam terror incident. Within hours, security agencies detained 180 suspected Bangladeshi nationals from the Chandola Lake area, revealing a long-ignored crisis festering under the surface. "Police acted swiftly after the terror alert. This proves they were aware of the illegal settlements all along," said a Congress spokesperson.

Gujarat rains: 21 dead, red alert in 23 districts

FPJ News Service
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat has been reeling under intense rainfall and thunderstorms for the last 48 hours, triggered by three upper air cyclonic circulations and a trough line, affecting 103 talukas and resulting in 21 deaths across the state. Central and East Gujarat have witnessed the highest casualties, accounting for 17 deaths and over 20 injuries, while 3 people and 45 animals died in North Gujarat due to rain-related incidents. Torrential downpour has battered multiple regions, with Mahuva in Bhavnagar recording 7.5 inches of rainfall within just six hours. Other severely affected areas include Lathi in Amreli (2.5 inches), Savarkundla (2.5 inches),



Liliya (2 inches) and Amreli town (2 inches). The unrelenting rain has led to widespread damage to infrastructure, electricity lines, and roadways. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert in 23 districts and two Union Territories, warning of continued heavy to very heavy rainfall and thunder-

storms in areas such as Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Vadodara, Surat, Valsad, Daman, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Moderate rainfall accompanied by winds reaching speeds of 41 to 61 kmph has been forecasted for the next three hours. An orange alert is active in Mehsana, Patan, Rajkot, Surendranagar,

Porbandar, and Junagadh, while a yellow alert covers Banaskantha, Morbi, Jamnagar, Devbhoomi Dwarka, and Kutch, which are also vulnerable due to the cyclonic conditions. In Ahmedabad, the situation has worsened with the opening of Vasna Barrage gates, prompting an alert for Dholka and low-lying areas. The fire department responded to over 20 tree fall incidents, while a transformer caught fire, disrupting electricity in parts of the city. Fire incidents were also reported in two AC units at an ATM on Waghodia Road. At noon on Tuesday, the city was engulfed in darkness as thick black clouds loomed. Light rain continued in areas like Naranpura, Vadaj, Memnagar, Akhbarnagar, and

Shastri Bridge, causing major traffic congestion near Thaltej and Palladium Mall due to waterlogging. Interestingly, the rainy weather sparked a long queue outside the famous Anand Dalvada shop in Naranpura, where people stood in lines for hot snacks and kheer for 15–20 minutes despite the downpour. In Smart City Vadodara, the ongoing 100-day mission to clean and widen the Vishwamitri River and drainage systems failed to prevent flooding in slum and low-lying areas. Water entered homes and shops in areas like Hathikhana and Tulsiwadi, while parked vehicles were submerged. Angry residents have raised questions about the efficacy of the municipal administration.

Air India Express leaves behind 25 passengers

FPJ News Service
SURAT

"This is utter negligence—we were left behind like baggage," shouted a stranded passenger in a now-viral video capturing the frustration and chaos at Delhi Airport on Monday night, after Air India Express left behind 25 Surat-bound passengers. The passengers were en route from Guwahati to Surat via Delhi on the Guwahati-Delhi-Surat connecting flight, operated by Air India Express. But due to what passengers described as a "complete failure of coordination and basic customer service,"

The video shows passengers arguing with Delhi airport staff, pleading for answers and accountability. The Air India Express manager in Surat was reportedly unresponsive, further fueling the anger. The incident reflects poorly on Air India Express, a subsidiary of the Tata Group, especially at a time when the airline is under scrutiny for frequent operational lapses. Passengers also expressed dismay at the flight's consistent unreliability, with many calling it "regularly irregular." "All it needed was a 30-minute delay in departure, and none of this would have



SGCCI pushes for 24x7 int’l airport

Melvyn Thomas
SURAT

In a decisive move to boost Surat's global connectivity, the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) held an impactful meeting with Surat Airport Director Anand Sharma on Tuesday, urging the immediate commencement of international air-cargo operations and 24x7 airport access. The meeting, held at 4:00 PM at the Surat International Airport premises, was attended by key stakeholders from the Chamber and Airport Authority of India. SGCCI President Vijay Mewawala set the tone for the session, highlighting the urgency of equipping Surat with robust international air

logistics infrastructure. "Surat contributes significantly to Gujarat's economy through diamonds, textiles, and agri-exports. Our entrepreneurs are ready. All we need now is an airport that works round the clock with international cargo access," Mewawala asserted in his welcome speech. He pointed out that despite Surat's global trade links, the lack of international cargo flights and limited airport operational hours have kept the region from realizing its full potential. In response, Airport Director Anand Sharma reassured the Chamber that development plans are underway. "We are working towards enhancing passenger convenience and airport utility," he said.

Rs12.5cr worth of hydroponic ganja seized at A’bad airport

FPJ News Service
AHMEDABAD

In a shocking escalation of drug trafficking incidents, hydroponic marijuana worth ₹12.5 crore was seized from three Indian tourists arriving from Bangkok at Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Tuesday. This marks the second consecutive day such a seizure has been made and the third major bust within a week, indicating a disturbing trend in international drug smuggling via Thailand. The Air Intelligence Unit (AIU), acting on a tip-off and suspicious baggage scanning results, intercepted the three passengers and found 12.557

kilograms of hydroponic ganja packed in 24 airtight packets. Officials revealed that the contraband was hidden in such a way that it could evade casual inspection, but scanning revealed anomalies in



the luggage contents. "This is not a coincidence; it points to an organised drug syndicate using Indian tourists as carriers," said a senior customs official involved in the operation. "All three passengers have been arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and further investigation is underway." Just a day earlier, an Indian woman flying in from Bangkok via Vietnam was caught with 19.728 kilograms of hydroponic ganja hidden in her trolley bag. The ganja, packed in 18 vacuum-sealed packets, was confirmed by lab testing and valued at ₹19.72 crore. She, too, was arrested under the NDPS Act. These two back-to-back seizures come on the heels of another massive bust a week ago, where four tourists from Bangkok were caught with 37 kilograms of hydroponic ganja cleverly disguised among snack packets. The total value of that seizure was estimated at ₹37 crore.

Bhavika wins Miss India Millennium Universe



FPJ News Service
SURAT

In a proud moment for Surat and the BrahmKshatriya community of Rajasthan, 25-year-old Bhavika Khatri has won the prestigious title of Miss India Millennium Universe 2024. The national-level beauty pageant was held in Udaipur, Rajasthan, on April 30, with over 50 participants from across India. Bhavika emerged as the winner after advancing through the final round of 12 finalists. Originally from Rajasthan and now residing in Surat, Bhavika will represent India at the international stage in Paris

this September, bringing immense pride to her roots and her city. A former medical student, Bhavika made a bold shift to the film industry at the age of 21. In just four years, she has starred in 12 Gujarati films and won over 70 awards in both education and acting. Recently seen in a Gujarati film, Bhavika is now stepping into Hindi television and web series as well. Her upcoming projects include a significant role in Ramayana, set to air on DD National, as well as performances in Kamadhenu on Star Plus and over 40 album songs. Her film Prem nu Dhaating,

produced by Jignesh Khatri, and DOWRY, directed by Suresh Joshi, are set for release soon. She will also appear in Tu Duniya Che Mari alongside popular actor Vikram Thakor, which is expected to hit theatres next month. Bhavika expressed her gratitude, saying, "When I was studying medicine, people recognized me as an influencer. I faced many challenges being the only daughter in my family, but with constant support from my father, mother, and brother, I've come this far. I now aim to be an inspiration and a proud representative of my society."

Surat to host night cyclothon for healthy, obesity-free state

FPJ News Service
SURAT

Gujarat has declared the year 2025 as Urban Development Year, under which a series of city-centric events are being organized across the state. As part of this initiative, a special campaign titled "Healthy Gujarat, Obesity-Free Gujarat" will be held across all 17 municipal corporations and 36 municipalities on Sunday, May 11, 2025. The Surat Municipal Corporation will organize a 10-kilometre Night Cyclothon-



25 on May 11, starting at 6:30 PM from the Police Parade Ground, passing through Rahul Raj Mall, and returning to the starting point. Around 7,000 participants are expected to take part in the event.

Municipal Commissioner Shalini Agarwal chaired meetings with the cycling association, educational and voluntary institutions, sports authority of Gujarat, and the state yoga board to ensure broad community participation.

NEWS in SHORTS



Police Commissioner distributes Traffic kits to police personnel

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner C.V. Anand distributed Traffic Kit articles to the Traffic Police. New hats were also provided to the Police. These new hats are being introduced to replace the existing ones, which were found to be uncomfortable during the summer season. The new design aims to improve comfort and usability for officers on duty in high temperatures. CP appreciated the dedicated efforts of the traffic personnel. He urged them to continue improving their efficiency and commitment to ensuring smooth traffic management in the city. The Commissioner informed that a drone has been provided to the Hyderabad Traffic Branch. This drone will be used for traffic analysis and monitoring, with the goal of providing hassle-free and efficient traffic flow in the city. Informed to take the help of the Google team for better traffic management for providing free flow of traffic to the commuters.



Cybercrime DCP Sribala deputed to UN Mission, given grand farewell

Hyderabad Cybercrime DCP B Sribala has been deputed to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for a one-year assignment, in recognition of her outstanding service in cyber law enforcement. During her tenure, she led several key operations targeting cyber fraud, financial scams, and online harassment, while also launching impactful digital literacy campaigns to promote cyber safety among students, professionals, and the general public. Her proactive initiatives and leadership have earned her national recognition, and her deputation marks a proud moment for the Telangana Police and the nation. Cyberabad CP Avinash Mohanty along with other senior DCPs, bid her a grand farewell, congratulating her on the prestigious international assignment. Her service and leadership have been widely appreciated.

RAJANNA SIRCILLA Shepherd dies by suicide in Rajanna Sircilla

A 23-year-old shepherd Oggu Mahesh died by suicide in Yellareddypet mandal on Wednesday. According to family members, Deceased Mahesh ended his life by hanging himself in an agricultural well located behind his home. The exact reason for his suicide is not yet known. Knowing about the incident, local police visited the spot and began investigation by registering the case. Body was shifted to hospital for postmortem.

Mock drills conducted across Hyderabad

To build awareness, improve preparedness in the event of an actual hostile attack

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

A series of civil defence and fire safety mock drills held across various locations including Secunderabad, Golconda, Nacharam NFC area, and Kanchanbagh. Additional mock drills were conducted at Mehdiapatnam, Mallapur, Rein Bazar, Moula Ali and Cyber tower junction on Wednesday. The mock drill was held as per instructions from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amid rising tensions with Pakistan post the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead. Air raid alert Sirens were activated at 4pm within the Outer Ring Road (ORR), signaling the start of the drill. Citizens were instructed to stay indoors, seek shelter, and take cover. As Hyderabad conducted rare air raids and civil defence mock drills, residents were advised to follow key safety protocols during the two-minute war siren. Rescue personnel evacuated people from buildings using ropes, provided medical aid, and shifted the 'injured' during the operations. Sirens were sounded again at 4.30 pm to mark the end of the drills. Senior police officials monitored the mock drills from the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) building in Banjara Hills. The mock drill in Hyderabad is intended to build awareness, improve preparedness, and reduce loss of life and property in the event of an actual hostile attack.



Here's what citizens were expected to do during the emergency

- Upon hearing the siren, people were instructed to vacate open areas and take shelter in sturdy buildings and underground shelters.
- Citizens were advised to stay tuned to official sources like TV, radio, or government mobile apps for real-time updates and instructions.
- Public urged not to circulate or act on unverified information
- Those at home were told to turn off all the electrical appliances, gas connections, and extinguish open flames such as stoves or fireplaces.

Gold medals for top medical students

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

In a significant step toward strengthening the medical profession in Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Daggunati Srihari Rao officially assumed charge as Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council (APMC) at the Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences on Wednesday. Soon after taking charge of the Medical Council he said that it would function as a strict regulatory authority, ensuring accountability and swift action on malpractice complaints. Among the key initiatives announced was the decision to award gold medals to medical students who excel academically at both the university and college levels. In a major administrative reform, the APMC will now require all doctors in the state to renew their registration once every five years. To simplify the process, the council will introduce an online slot booking system. After verification, registration certificates will be dispatched via registered post, reducing delays and improving accessibility. Dr. Srihari also addressed the issue of foreign medical graduates seeking registration in Andhra Pradesh. He stated that registrations will be permitted strictly as per the guidelines of the National Medical Commission (NMC). While some states have adopted relaxed norms, Andhra Pradesh is currently evaluating similar possibilities to ensure fairness without compromising standards. The council is also considering easing credit hour requirements for doctors above the age of 70, recognizing their years of service and practical limitations. In addition, Dr. Sriharirao warned that stern action would be taken against individuals practicing medicine using fake degrees or forged documents, stating that such malpractice will not be tolerated.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed the police officials to detain Pakistan and Bangladesh nationals who are residing illegally in the State. "A communication system should be established in the command control center. Strict action will be taken against those who disturb peace and security," Revanth Reddy said. The Chief Minister held an emergency meeting with officials at the Command Control Center here on Wednesday in the wake of Operation Sindoor. Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, DGP Jitender, Home Secretary Ravi Gupta, other officials from Army, Police, Disaster Management and other related departments were present. During the meeting, Revanth Reddy emphasised that a strong message of supporting Indian Army by the entire nation should be rolled out and politics should not take place and parties maintain restraint in the difficult times. The Chief Minister directed that leaves of the employees of all departments which engage in the emergency services should be cancelled and all employees should be ready to render services. The Ministers and officials should also be available and cancel all foreign trips, if any, he said. The Chief Minister further stated that strict action should be initiated if government employees make controversial statements in the media and social media, adding that a toll-free round the clock number will be provided for the people. The officials concerned have been asked to stockpile blood in Blood banks and emergency medicine for emergency needs. Information about the availability of beds in the private hospitals should be updated from time to time. "Officials should strength coordination with the Red Cross. Food stocks should also be made sufficient. Moreover, police officials should enhance vigilance about cyber security and warned of stringent action against those who peddle fake news. Officials should set up special cell to curb fake news which could cause to create anxiety and panic among people," Revanth Reddy said. Police authorities were also directed to connect all CC cameras to the command control room in the three Police commissionerates in the Greater Hyderabad City. He further stated that steps should be taken to improve surveillance and enhance security in all district headquarters and sensitive areas. Tighten security at all Foreign Consulates in Hyderabad. Enhance security measures at all IT companies, the Chief Minister said. He also instructed Hyderabad police to be on high alert and hold talks with Peace Committees, if necessary. The police department should also keep an eye on the moments of history sheeters and old criminals, the Chief Minister added.

Detain Pakistan, Bangladesh nationals residing illegally in Telangana: CM Revanth

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

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Capacity building training for every government employee: Babu

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced that all government employees—from grassroots-level workers to top bureaucrats—will undergo mandatory capacity building training. Chairing a high-level review meeting on state planning, Swarnandhra Vision, and Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Naidu emphasized that structured training—both online and offline—is essential to enhance skills and performance across government departments. "From agriculture officers to secretaries, and constables to DGPs, capacity building must become an institutionalized process. I personally continue to focus on learning new things daily—be it through technology or management practices. This is how governance evolves," Naidu said. Under the Zero Poverty P4 initiative, 15,315 "Golden Families" have been adopted by 1,118 trained mentors across the state. To institutionalize the program, the state government is forming the Swarnandhra P4 Foundation, with the Chief Minister as its Chairman. The foundation will comprise a 25-member General Body, supported by an Executive Committee and Empowered Teams.

Babu hails Indian Armed Forces for avenging Pahalgam attack

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has lauded the Indian Armed Forces for their decisive action in avenging the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, commending their bravery and precision in targeted strikes across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). In a strongly worded message, CM Naidu declared, "With pride, I salute the brave warriors of the Indian Armed Forces for swiftly avenging the Pahalgam terror attack. With their unmatched bravery and precision, they have once again demonstrated that our nation will defend itself with an iron will." The Chief Minister was one among the political leaders to publicly commend the military's counter-terrorism operation. Taking to social media platform X, Naidu shared a patriotic "Jai Hind!" shortly after reports of the successful strikes emerged, becoming one of the earliest voices to recognize the Armed Forces' efforts. In a follow-up post, Naidu extended his tribute not only to the Armed Forces but also to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, crediting his leadership for the swift and bold response. "Today, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji, the world has witnessed our



Entire country waiting for revenge on terrorists: Pawan Kalyan

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said on Wednesday that the whole country was waiting for revenge for the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians and tried to undermine the integrity of India. Speaking at a press conference at his residence in Hyderabad, he welcomed "Operation Sindoor" and said that it should not stop till the last terrorist is eliminated. Reiterating that Kashmir is an integral part of India, he expressed his anguish about how Kashmiri Pandits were killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists. He also recalled about how there have been bomb blasts in Lumbini Park, Gokul Chat and other areas. The Indian Armed Forces' operation is seen as a powerful message to adversaries following the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of several Indian security personnel. Political leaders across party lines have hailed the response, reflecting broad national support for counter-terror efforts.



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Mega job fair in Hyderabad

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is set to host a landmark job fair, offering a unique platform for unemployed youth in Telangana to secure promising career opportunities, announced Dundra Kumaraswamy, National President of BC Dal. Organised jointly by Deccan Blaster Mannan Khan and Bliss Berg Future of Hope, the job fair will take place at Kaja Mansion Function Hall in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The event was inaugurated by chief guests Dundra Kumaraswamy and Dr Vinay Sarikonda. Over 100 reputed companies will conduct interviews at the fair, providing job opportunities to eligible candidates across diverse sectors, including pharmaceuticals, healthcare, IT, education, and banking. In addition, a free medical camps during the event will be held. Renowned doctors will provide complimentary health check-ups and advice.

Swiss ambassador visits AP Secretariat, lauds RTGS

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

Switzerland's Ambassador to India, Maya Tissafi, commended the Andhra Pradesh government's Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) during a visit to the state secretariat on Wednesday, calling it an excellent initiative and a model worth emulating by governments worldwide. "Centralized, real-time monitoring systems like RTGS are critical for responsive governance. The AP government is clearly setting an example for



other Indian states," she said. Through this platform, citizens can access over 290 services directly from their phones, eliminating the need to visit government offices. Plans are underway to scale up to

1,000 services in the near future. Citizens can also submit applications through WhatsApp and provide feedback on the quality of services received. Highlighting RTGS's innovative role in environmental monitoring, Prakhar Jain, the Chief Executive Officer of RTGS said a dedicated "Aware Hub" has been set up within the system to track climate changes and deliver timely alerts to citizens. The platform is also integrating artificial intelligence to further enhance efficiency.

Over 57,000 Government positions filled in a year, says Sridhar Babu

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Minister for IT and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced that the State government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has successfully recruited 57,000 individuals into government service within the span of a year. Speaking at the inauguration of a new building at Natco Zilla Parishad High School in Kothur of Shadnagar constituency on Wednesday, the Minister said, "Initiatives are underway to introduce digital classrooms across all government schools, with a clear objective to enhance academic standards through a structured, expert-driven approach," Sridhar Babu said. He emphasised the goal of preparing students in government institutions to perform on par with those in private schools. "Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence are being integrated into the curriculum to ensure future-readiness.

Teachers have a key role in restoring public trust in government schools. Long-pending promotions for government teachers have been addressed. Specialised 'Amma Committees' have been established to oversee school operations," the Minister said. He also addressed criticism from the opposition, calling it politically motivated and baseless, especially as the government is earnestly working to deliver every electoral promise. Strengthening of the Indian rupee against the dollar, coupled with a stable reserves position, enhances India's capacity to manage external financial obligations and strengthens economic resilience. Despite various pressures and challenges, there remains a potential for robust recovery, provided that the country navigates its resource management, investment strategies, and consumer confidence effectively.



Indian economy outlook for May 2025

RBI revises GDP growth forecast for 2025-26 to 6.5%

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

The economic landscape of India in March-April 2025 showcased mixed trends amid a backdrop of global uncertainties. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised the GDP growth forecast for 2025-26 to 6.5%, reflecting caution as other global agencies such as the World Bank and the IMF echoed similar downward adjustments. The RBI's monetary policy

cut the repo rate to 6%, while retail inflation trends dropping to 3.34%, the lowest in six years. The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) demonstrated strong domestic demand despite slow exports, while the Services PMI indicated slight moderation amid competitive pressures. Industrial output for March registered a 3% increase, led by manufacturing and power sectors. The core infrastructure sector grew 3.8%, spurred on



by cement and electricity production, contrasting with declines in energy outputs. A widening trade deficit emerged, reaching \$21.54 billion due to rising oil and gold

The core infrastructure sector grew 3.8%, spurred on by cement and electricity production

imports. Cautious optimism surrounded the overall outlook, balancing between domestic demand dynamics and

external geopolitical risks that could influence future growth trajectories.

Key Insights

The downward revision of GDP forecasts by the RBI, World Bank, and IMF signifies the susceptibility of the Indian economy to global economic conditions. The adjustments reflect concerns regarding geopolitical tensions and trade dynamics. The RBI's decision to adopt a more accom-

modative monetary policy underscores a strategic effort to mitigate the effects of subdued growth and inflationary pressures. The interest rate cut aims to stimulate investment, increase consumer spending, and alleviate the burden on borrowers, setting the stage for a modest recovery.

Similarly, the notable decrease in retail inflation may lead to improved purchasing power among consumers, potentially stimulating domestic

demand. Strengthening of the Indian rupee against the dollar, coupled with a stable reserves position, enhances India's capacity to manage external financial obligations and strengthens economic resilience. Despite various pressures and challenges, there remains a potential for robust recovery, provided that the country navigates its resource management, investment strategies, and consumer confidence effectively.

EMOTIONALLY SUPERCHARGED RESPONSES

Ramachandran's daughter hails Operation Sindoor

Arathy, the daughter of N Ramachandran, who was tragically killed by terrorists in Pahalgam, Kashmir, expressed strong support for the Indian Army's newly launched "Operation Sindoor". Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Arathy voiced her hopes that this initiative would provide some solace to the families who, like hers, have suffered from the brutalities of terrorism.

Arathy, whose father's death left an indelible mark on her family, acknowledged that the operation signifies more than just military action. She described it as a powerful response from the women of India, reflecting the collective resolve to confront the menace of terrorism.

Arathy's father, N Ramachandran, was among the many innocent lives lost during terrorist attacks in the



Kashmir Valley. While the operation's immediate impact remains to be fully assessed, Arathy's words re-

flected a sentiment shared by numerous families who have lost loved ones in similar circumstances. The pain of such loss is often compounded by the feeling that justice is elusive, and the perpetrators remain unpunished. For these families, Operation Sindoor offers a glimmer of hope that action will be taken, and justice may be served.

"We've seen the destruction caused by these terrorists in our lives. My father's death is a constant reminder of the harsh reality faced by thousands of families like mine. I believe this operation will help bring closure to many of us," said Arathy. Her call for justice echoes the demands of families across India who have been victims of cross-border terrorism. Arathy's father Ramachandran was gunned down in front of her. eyes.

Actors salute heroes

Actors Mammooty and Mohanlal have publicly endorsed India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Mammooty expressed



his support on social media, stating, "Salute to our heroes. Operation Sindoor once again proves that the Indian Army will listen to the call when the country calls. Thank you for saving lives and ke-

eping hope alive. You are raising the pride of the country to the sky, Jai Hind."

Mohanlal also voiced his sentiments, saying, "We



wear sindoor not just as a tradition, but as a symbol of our unwavering resolve. Challenge us and we will rise, fearless and stronger than ever. Salute to every brave heart of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force "

Mock drills at 126 centres in 14 districts

HD Bureau
KOCHI

At 4:00 PM on Wednesday, all 14 districts of Kerala activated a coordinated civil defence mock drill, aligning with the Union Home Ministry's directive under Operation Abhyaas. This nationwide exercise, the most extensive since the 1971 India-Pakistan war, aims to assess and enhance civilian preparedness in the wake of escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack on April 22.

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority spearheaded the operation, integrating air-raid siren tests, evacuation simulations, and public awareness campaigns. Chief Secretary Dr. A. Jayathilak urged citizens, institutions, and organisations to participate actively, emphasising vigilance and the importance of not succumbing to panic.

The drills are part of a broader national strategy involving 244 districts across the country. In Kerala, the exercise included the operational testing of sirens installed at 86 locations, primarily schools and government buildings. Of these, 83 functioned satisfactorily, while three experienced technical issues, which are

being addressed. These sirens are part of the Kerala Warnings Crisis and Hazard Management system, designed to disseminate information and issue warnings effectively during crises.

In Kerala, mock drills were conducted across all 14 districts, with the state government urging public cooperation and preparedness.

The civil defence apparatus has been actively involved in various disaster response operations. For instance, during the landslides in Chooralmala and Mundakkai, civil defence teams played a crucial role in rescue operations, highlighting their importance in disaster response.

Additionally, mock drills have been conducted to assess tsunami preparedness in coastal regions like Alappad and Valiyaparamba, aiming to certify these areas as 'tsunami-ready' based on various indicators such as evacuation route maps and awareness classes.

The state's commitment to disaster preparedness is further exemplified by the mock drill conducted to assess flood preparedness in

Thiruvananthapuram, where a hypothetical flood situation was created in five panchayats, including Chenkal, Poovachal, Velland, Kadakkavoor, and Kochi.

'Sindoor over Pakistan'

Union Minister Suresh Gopi, speaking at the Thrissur Pooram festival, defended India's surgical strike, stating that the operation was a necessary measure to protect national security and prevent future terrorist attacks. He emphasised that the strikes were not acts of revenge but steps taken in accordance with international norms to safeguard citizens. "Thrissur Pooram filled the sky with myriad colours, Operation Sindoor sprayed sindoor over Pakistan," the politician-turned actor said.



Only the initial phase, feels Antony

Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister for Defence A.K. Antony has marked Operation Sindoor as only the initial phase in a broader strategy against terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Antony's remarks, made on May 7, 2025, raise important questions about the trajectory of India's counterterrorism efforts and the potential for escalating military actions in the region.

While acknowledging the significance of Operation Sindoor, which targeted several extremist camps,

Antony framed the operation as just the beginning. His statement has amplified speculation about the next steps in India's ongoing military strategy and whether more extensive actions are on the horizon.

Many analysts believe that his remarks reflect the government's broader strategy of strengthening its offensive capabilities. If this approach gains momentum, it could signal a more aggressive posture in dealing with groups operating in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. ic discussions.



UNITED FRONT | 'A' and 'T' groups, historically influential within the Kerala Congress, have united in their criticism of the current leadership

Leadership crisis intensifies as Sudhakaran refuses to budge

HD Bureau
KOCHI

A leadership impasse within the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee has intensified, with party president K Sudhakaran resisting pressure from the All India Congress Committee to step down. Sudhakaran's refusal, bolstered by support from senior leaders, has escalated tensions within the party, prompting concerns about the unity of the United Democratic Front ahead of upcoming elections.

Sudhakaran has publicly dismissed reports of a leadership change as spec-

ulative, asserting his commitment to the party's directives. He emphasized that no official communication from the AICC has requested his resignation, stating, "If they ask me to step down, I will obey their command as a loyal and obedient party worker." This stance has been met with both support and opposition within the party ranks.

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has voiced strong support for Sudhakaran, highlighting the party's electoral successes under his leadership. Tharoor noted that the Congress secured significant victories



in the 2024 general elections and subsequent bypolls, arguing that there is no justification for a change in leadership. "Let him continue. Everyone should stand together with him," Tharoor

stated, reinforcing the call for unity within the party.

However, internal divisions persist, with factions within the KPCC expressing dissatisfaction over the selection of block unit presi-

dents and alleging a lack of consultation in decision-making processes. The 'A' and 'T' groups, historically influential within the Kerala Congress, have united in their criticism of the current leadership, accusing Sudhakaran and Opposition Leader V D Satheesan of sidelining senior leaders and consolidating power without broader consensus. In response to the escalating discord, the AICC has initiated efforts to mediate and restore cohesion within the Kerala Congress. A high-level committee comprising key figures, including Sudhakaran, Satheesan, UDF Co-

nvenor M M Hassan, senior leader Ramesh Chennithala, AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal, and General Secretary in charge of Kerala Deepa Dasmunshi, has been formed to address the internal conflicts and strategize for upcoming elections. Dasmunshi has actively engaged with UDF partners, seeking to reassure allies of the Congress's commitment to unity and collaborative decision-making. Despite these interventions, the leadership crisis remains unresolved, with Sudhakaran's faction demanding the replacement of Dasmunshi, citing her controversial role.

Sarin gets a job!

HD Bureau
KOCHI

Dr P Sarin, a former Congress leader who recently joined the Communist Party of India, has been appointed as the advisor to Vigyan Kerala, a significant development in the political landscape of the state. The appointment is marked by the offer of a monthly salary of ₹80,000 for his advisory role.

Sarin, who was previ-



ously the convenor of the Kerala Pradesh Congress

Committee Digital Media Cell, made headlines when he shifted allegiance from Congress to CPM during the Palakkad by-election. His move has drawn attention, with political analysts seeing it as a noteworthy shift in Kerala's political dynamics. Sarin's decision to leave Congress and align with the ruling CPM has been widely discussed, particularly in light of his electoral performance.

Murmu's Sabarimala visit a milestone

HD Bureau
KOCHI

President Droupadi Murmu's upcoming visit to the Sabarimala temple in Kerala on May 19 is poised to be a defining moment in the temple's history. The two-day trip, which is set to place the President at the revered hill shrine, comes at a time when Sabarimala has significantly bolstered its position as a prominent spiritual and religious hub, both within India and globally. Managed by the Travancore



Devaswom Board, the Sabarimala temple has always been at the heart of a unique

religious and cultural tradition. P S Prashanth, President of the TDB, remarked

that this visit by the head of state will be "a milestone in the overall development of Sabarimala," underscoring the importance of the visit at a time when the temple's stature continues to rise. This will not be the first time a sitting president visits the shrine, as President V V Giri had made a similar visit decades ago. However, this particular visit holds special significance in the modern context, with the temple's increasing prominence and the larger developments surrounding its infrastructure. Sabarimala, dedicated to

Lord Ayyappa, attracts millions of devotees annually, particularly during the Mandala-Makaravilakk u pilgrimage season. Its prominence has only grown in the last few decades, with a steady increase in the number of devotees travelling to the hilltop temple from all parts of India and beyond. The temple's location, at a challenging altitude, and the pilgrimage's long-standing traditions, including stringent rituals and fasting, make it a distinct and revered spiritual journey for many.. The Sabarimala pi-

offgrid

Elephant rampage mars Pooram fireworks show

HD Bureau
KOCHI

At least 42 people were injured when an elephant went on a rampage during the Thrissur Pooram celebrations in the early morning of Wednesday. The incident unfolded around 2:15 a.m. on Pandi Samooha Madam Road, near Swaraj Round, where a large crowd had gathered to enjoy the renowned fireworks display. The elephant, Uttoly Raman, part of the procession

organised by Thiruvambady Devaswom, suddenly turned aggressive, triggering widespread panic.

The chaos erupted as the 25-year-old tusker broke free from its handlers and began charging through the crowd. Those closest to the animal were struck or knocked over as people scrambled for cover in the dark, chaotic streets. Emergency responders and local authorities rushed to the scene to manage the si-

tuation.

The animal's violent outburst disrupted the lively festivities of the Pooram, one of Kerala's most famous cultural events, held annually at the Vadakunnathan Temple in Thrissur. The firework display, a highlight of the event, was temporarily halted as authorities focused on containing the elephant and ensuring the safety of the attendees.

Uttoly Raman, a seasoned elephant known for his



calm demeanour, was part of the Thiruvambady Devaswom's elephant squad, which traditionally participates in the grand procession during the Pooram festival. Witnesses reported that the animal appeared agitated, though the reasons for the sudden outburst remain unclear. Experts have suggested that loud noises from the fireworks, a dense crowd, and the intense pressure of the procession may have contributed to the elephant's

unexpected behaviour.

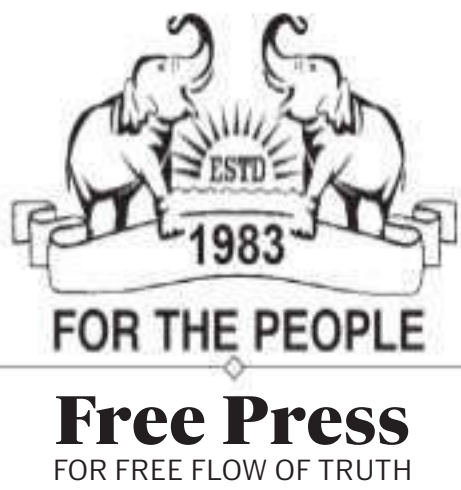
The injured were quickly taken to nearby hospitals for treatment, with some suffering minor to moderate injuries, while others sustained more serious trauma. Local authorities confirmed that the elephant was safely restrained by the Elephant Squad, which consists of experienced handlers skilled in managing animals in such situations.

Uttoly Raman's aggressive behaviour has raised fresh

concerns over the safety measures surrounding elephants used in festivals. Elephants play a significant role in the cultural and religious life of Kerala, especially during major events like Pooram. However, experts have long voiced concerns about the conditions under which these animals are kept and the risks involved in using them for such public spectacles.

The incident has reignited the debate over the treatment of elephants in

festivals across Kerala. While they are considered sacred and are revered in the state's religious traditions, the practice of parading elephants during major festivals has faced growing criticism. Animal rights activists argue that the loud noises, overcrowding, and extended hours of work cause significant stress to the elephants, potentially leading to dangerous situations like the one that occurred during Thrissur Pooram.



Action, reaction & a lesson

The destruction of nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) by India on Wednesday has once again demonstrated Delhi's firm commitment to fight terrorism on its soil and act against those who target Indians. The Indian action came in response to the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam in Kashmir, in which 26 innocent tourists were brutally killed by operatives of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The military action, codenamed Operation Sindoor, symbolising the sacred vermilion of a married Hindu woman, was a signal to those widows who saw their husbands being killed in front of their eyes and also to Pakistan that the Indian government will punish those responsible for their killing. The military action, however, avoided targeting civilians and Pakistan's military installations, making it clear that India does not want to encourage a wider conflict.

In a pre-dawn, tri-service coordinated action called Operation Sindoor, the armed forces launched 24 missiles against precise terrorists' locations in Pakistan and territories under its control to demolish the camps. Nearly 70 terrorists were reportedly killed in the missile attack. The entire operation lasted less than 25 minutes. Most of the dead were members of the terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohamed, who have been responsible for targeting Indian assets and citizens over the years. The action against Pakistan came amid calls for restraint from key world leaders. India's decision to go ahead with its objective, ignoring such calls, indicates that despite its respect for global opinion, its primary responsibility was the safety and security of its people.

India waited for nearly two weeks, informing world leaders about Pakistan's complicity and its pursuance of cross-border terrorism as a foreign policy tool against India. It hoped Islamabad would punish the perpetrators and assure Delhi it would not encourage such acts in future by taking visible action in dismantling its terrorist infrastructures. Instead, Pakistan denied its involvement and attacked India for creating a war hysteria between the two countries while playing to the outside world's apprehension that an India-Pakistan armed conflict can deteriorate to a nuclear conflagration. This left India with little choice but to take action against the terrorists and their backers in Pakistan. India also had credible intelligence that Pakistan was gathering more terrorists at the camps to carry out similar attacks in Kashmir and other parts of India. The action was, therefore, both pre-emptive and punishing to those involved in the Pahalgam attack.

The Indian foreign minister S. Jaishankar has briefed the leaders of the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Russia. The Iranian foreign minister Seyed Abbas Aragachi, who arrived in Delhi on Wednesday, was briefed by the Indian foreign minister. Besides, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also discussed the evolving situation with leaders of the five countries in the past few days.

The death of the 26 civilians was the largest number of civilian casualties since the November 26, 2008, attacks in Mumbai. The brutal killing of the innocent tourists in front of their family was clearly driven by the objectives of disrupting tourism, the mainstay of the local economy, and derailing the normalcy that was being restored in the Union Territory through development and growth.

Last year, over 23 million tourists from different parts of India visited Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to about 40,000 foreigners. The killing of the tourists was a signal to the rest of India that the area was not safe for visiting. Another objective was to tell the world that despite India's claim, Jammu and Kashmir remained a disturbed area and local people were desperate to seek independence from Indian rule. The aim was to ensure the region remained a fertile ground for continued cross-border terrorism from Pakistan by keeping it backward and disturbed. The attack was also driven by an objective to provoke communal violence in Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India. However, because of the government and the people, such designs were foiled.

A group called the Resistance Front (TRF) claimed responsibility for the attack. However, it was a front for the LeT, a UN-proscribed Pakistani terrorist group. The Indian investigation teams had also found, through communication nodes of terrorists and other evidence after the Pahalgam attack, their link to Pakistan.

India must continue to exert pressure on Pakistan at the international stage through sustained campaigning. Pakistan has a long tradition of indulging in cross-border terrorism against India and has a reputation for being a safe haven for terrorists from around the world. It has wilfully misled the world leaders at international forums, like the Financial Action Task Force, about harbouring terrorists. India should also maintain economic pressure on Pakistan. Credit agency Moody says Pakistan's IMF loan in the future could be affected if it engages in a long war.

A long war is not desirable, but world opinion must be against Pakistan to force it to give up its policy of using terrorism as a tool against its neighbour. Otherwise, India could come up with a much stronger response against Pakistan in future.



Neighbourly Eye

K C SINGH

Two weeks after the Pahalgam terror attack, India finally retaliated by launching air attacks against 9 targets. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, in his press statement, emphasised India choosing non-military targets linked to Pakistan's terror machine.

Since India's 2019 Balakot attack, after the Pulwama suicide bombing of Indian paramilitary personnel, Delhi assumed that Pakistan had been finally deterred from sponsoring terrorism. The abrogation of Article 370 and the division and downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, followed by an extended President's rule, fanned Indian complacency that terrorism stood defeated.

These smug conclusions rested on two flawed presumptions. One, the conclusion that an economically beleaguered Pakistan was preoccupied with domestic political instability and terrorism emanating from Balochistan and Afghanistan; and two, that a weakening Pakistani state meant its army was also handicapped. However, that was never so, as China props up Pakistan as a

counterweight to India in South Asia. Pakistan, if anything, has upgraded its air force and army. With India allocating resources to counter China across the Line of Actual Control, its residual military resources do not greatly outweigh those of Pakistan, except in the naval domain.

Before Pahalgam, multiple warning signs were aflutter that some mischief could be expected from the Pakistan army. Pakistan had blamed India and Afghanistan for the March hijacking of a train by militants of the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). Then came the completely unhinged public speech by army chief General Asim Munir, reviving the discarded 2-nation theory, which died when Bangladesh was created in 1972. His terming "Kashmir" as Pakistan's "jugular vein" indicated that they were again preparing to mainstream internationally the Kashmir issue. The general having conspired to detain mass leader Imran Khan indefinitely, the Sharif government is his puppet. The director general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has just been also designated as the National Security Advisor. This means the army now has its representative directly ad-

vising the cabinet. All pretences of civil control over the military are jettisoned.

On the Indian side, General Munir correctly assumed that a BJP-led government would not but retaliate after the brutal, communal and close-quarter killing of 26 males. The Pakistani army is generally good at tactical surprise, like in the case of the Kargil intrusion. They lack strategic perception of how their antagonist may react. They rely on the nuclear bluff to stymie India from broadening retaliation. The Modi government, like that of Vajpayee in 1999, has called the Pakistani bluff. This time the targets include not only most training camps of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir but also their declared headquarters at Muridke and Bahawalpur, respectively.

In both places, the terror outfits have created charitable institutions, providing education and healthcare. That earns them public goodwill, facilitates recruitment and enables fund collection abroad, especially in the Gulf. The facade also becomes a protective shield against scrutiny of their real motives and actions. India came

close to attacking Muridke after the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, but the US was still in Afghanistan and hunting for Osama bin Laden. Their pressure and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's pacifist instincts held India back. India chose instead to use the international route to name and shame Pakistan. The UN Security Council's listing of global terrorists was also employed, despite Chinese foot-dragging. That process has just obtained for India the custody of Tahawwur Rana, co-conspirator with David Headley. That may also be a motivating factor for the Pakistan army's urgency to create a major distraction, as his revelations will uncover ISI's direct complicity in 26/11.

In 2019, President Donald Trump played a vital role in de-escalating the situation quickly. In his present incarnation, he is totally enmeshed in the global trade chaos that he has churned. He also has Ukraine and Gaza conflicts already choking his claimed diplomatic prowess. China, for the same reason, may actually be against the South Asian conflict escalating. It needs India as a potential market, probably assuming that Trump will not easily back off.

What then can happen next? Pakistan will certainly retaliate. It can be mostly symbolic, like in 2019, with LoC firing already taking a toll. Its problem is target selection. India does not have terrorist training camps breeding anti-Pakistan militancy. It has also seen India beginning to weaponise river waters, which is an existential threat. If it targets military facilities, then escalation is inevitable. If it goes after the run-of-river projects on Chenab and Jhelum, that too would cross India's red lines.

Pakistani generals lose jobs after tactical mistakes. President Pervez Musharraf's coup followed an attempt to replace him. Unfortunately, with the degradation of the position of America as an arbiter in such situations, the off-ramps look shaky. Pakistan has to back off from resumed sponsorship of terror against India. India needs to restore deterrence. But this time, unlike in 2019, India also needs, once calm returns, to open dialogue with Pakistan. Shutting all doors has proven as risky as appeasement. Diplomacy must find a middle path.

KC Singh is former secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



HerStory

DEEPA GAHLOT

In a comic book populated mainly by male superheroes, Catwoman is an intriguing character—both vampish and heroic. She made her debut in 1940 and has held her mystique for 85 years.

Catwoman was ranked 11th on Image Game Network's list of the Top 100 Comic Book Villains of All Time, and 51st on Wizard magazine's 100 Greatest Villains of All Time list; she was ranked 20th on IGN's Top 100 Comic Book Heroes of All Time list. This not only marks her popularity but also indicates a complexity to her character, not usually granted to comic book females.

Created by Bill Finger and Bob Kane, The Cat appeared in the first Batman comic in 1940 and went on to become one of his rogues' gallery of adversaries. Interestingly, she was also his love interest. Of course, there was sexism built into the comic book universe aimed at adolescent males.

Catwoman, the alter ego of Selina Kyle, was drawn dressed in a skintight bodysuit and given a bullwhip as a weapon. In those modest times, the sexual connotations of her slinky, whip-wielding persona were not lost on anyone, and the character was forced by the Comics Code Authority to vanish from 1954 to 1966, in keeping

with the rules regarding the portrayal of women in comic books. The code was eventually dropped, and Catwoman returned.

Inspired by Bollywood femme fatales like Jean Harlow and Hedy Lamarr, Kane and Finger wanted to give their comic book sex appeal (though the catsuit came much later) and also appeal to female readers—according to Bob Kane's book *Batman And Me* (1989), they wanted to give Batman a "friendly foe who committed crimes but was also a romantic interest in Batman's rather sterile life."

Why a cat? He wrote, "I felt that women were feline creatures and men were more like dogs. While dogs are faithful and friendly, cats are cool, detached, and unreliable. I felt much warmer with dogs around me—cats are as hard to understand as women are. Men feel more sure of themselves with a male friend than a woman. You always need to keep women at arm's length. We don't want anyone taking over our souls, and women have a habit of doing that. So there's a love-resentment thing with women. I guess women will feel that I'm being chauvinistic to speak this way, but I do feel that I've had better relationships with male friends than women. With women, once the romance is over, somehow they never remain my friends."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

News Leak

TV channels reveal strategic details about terror response, unintentionally helping Pakistan. Over-sharing for TRPs compromises national security. Media must balance reporting with discretion, especially during sensitive operations.

— Lalit Dube, Ratlam

Overcoming Fear

Fear arises from self-imposed limitations. Empathy alone can't overcome it; facing and conquering obstacles can. Focusing on self-growth and encouraging others fosters courage. If we gain comfort from others' fears, it signifies a lack of self-love. As W. Clement Stone said, "Thinking will not overcome fear, but action will." Growth comes from overcoming our limits.

Akshara Trivedi, Ujjain

Delivery Magic

Blinkit, the popular delivery app, has launched in Dewas, and for senior citizens like me, it feels like technological magic. You

place a grocery order on your phone, and—voilà—it's at your doorstep in minutes. I tested the service myself to see if it lived up to the ad-hype, and it truly did. The convenience is unmatched, especially for those of us who may struggle with daily market runs. It's heartening to see technology making life easier and safer, especially post-pandemic. What's next? With the current pace of innovation, maybe the future holds even more wonders—perhaps we'll soon graduate from Blinkit to "Thinkit," where a thought alone could trigger a delivery. Sounds like science fiction today, but so did grocery apps once. This isn't just about shopping—it's a glimpse into how human convenience and artificial intelligence might soon merge in ways we've only dreamed of.

Avinash Godbole, Dewas

AI Surveillance

AI in public spaces threatens privacy. Facial recognition and data track-



Man's Conflict with the Cheetah

The authorities must segregate residential areas from forest land using unscalable electric fences fitted with CC cameras and electronic buzzers. Floodlights and drones, along with armed guards, should be used to keep round-the-clock vigilance so that people don't trespass into the protected area. Additionally, technology by way of microchips, radio collars and leg bands should be used to stop wild animals and birds from being poached.

Peter Castellino

ing risk misuse. Without consent and laws, surveillance may compromise civil liberties. Regulations must ensure ethical use, balancing security with rights.

— Insiya Raj, Ujjain

Tariff Trouble

Hollywood's creativity is stifled by rising tariffs. Overseas shoots face cost hikes, limiting authentic settings. Creativity can't be contained in studios. India's innovation-driven industry



Michelle Pfeiffer as Catwoman. The character made its debut in 1940.

The character underwent many dramatic changes in her journey, and in 1993, Catwoman was given her first own comic series, with Jim Balent as the main writer with others, who gave her a backstory as a teenage runaway, her time in a juvenile detention home, a female sidekick and her training with another DC Comics character, Ted 'Wildcat' Grant.

Inevitably, the feminist potential of the character was noted, and dozens of magazine articles, books and papers were written on her. There is also criticism of the hypersexualized portrayal and the clichéd negative stereotyping of

women as cats. Gloria Steinem commented that Catwoman "is a feminist superhero with a storyline and transformation of her own—plus class consciousness, a girl buddy, equal skills with the Batman equipment and an apartment of her own."

Making an appearance on television in 1966, she was played by the six-foot tall Julie Newmar in a black Lurex catsuit with cat ears and a low-slung golden belt. Catwoman, says Julie Newmar, quoted in a piece by Allison Keyes in npr.org, is comprised of the "most delicious" human traits—determined, calculating, and wise. And

that catsuit? "You feel more power," she said, "You're both hidden and exposed at the same time. You're hidden by the black; you're exposed by the tightness of the outfit. You have on these high heels, long nails, and then your eyelashes—your hair!"

Catwoman has been played by many actresses over the years, among them Lee Meriwether in *Batman* (1966), Michelle Pfeiffer in *Batman Returns* (1992), Halle Berry in *Catwoman* (2004), Anne Hathaway in *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012), and Zoe Kravitz in *The Batman* (2022). On television, she has been played by Julie Newmar, Eartha Kitt, Carmen Bicondova and Lili Simmons. All of them have interpreted the character in their own way.

Suzanne Colon, author of *Catwoman: The Life and Times of Feline Fatale*, wrote, "This was one of the first female characters we saw on television that really spoke to empowerment. Not only empowerment; a proto-feminism that was very sexy and pretty and female, and yet very take-charge. This woman had her own gang of men who wore little cat ears... to please her." Any woman who can manage that is definitely a superhero!

Deepa Gahlot is a Mumbai-based columnist, critic and author.

shows budget isn't everything. Trump must rethink the policy for cinema's sake.

—Dev Krishna Nigam, Ujjain

Trump Theatre

President Trump's 100% tariffs on non-Hollywood films raise eyebrows globally. Ironically, the world watches his own political drama unfold daily—for free. Titles like *The Shivering Tariffs* and *Insanity Decisions* outdo fiction. Tariffs aside, Trump's actions offer a surreal spectacle unlike any film.

—Vinod Akolkar, Dewas

Summit Diplomacy

PM Modi attended the 6th BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand, focusing on maritime security, climate change, and infrastructure ties. India and Thailand signed a strategic partnership to boost defense and regional connectivity, emphasizing cooperation in disaster management and anti-trafficking.

—Dev Krishna Nigam, Ujjain

Amateur Edge

Amateurs explain better because they recall learning struggles, use simple language, and are patient. Unlike experts, they don't assume prior knowledge. Their friendly, clear approach makes concepts easier to grasp, often making them more effective teachers.

—Arpita Singh, Ujjain

Grandma's tales

Memories of my grandmother's bedtime stories may have faded, but the ones I tell my grandchildren remain fresh. New stories are created daily, yet my grandson always asks for the same one, perhaps because it touches a deep chord of bonding. Indian tales, deeply tied to family relationships and cultural identity, strengthen emotional bonds and reflect collectivist values. They emphasise humility, selflessness, and spiritual wisdom, contrasting with the individualism seen in modern tales.

R. Narayanan

Briefs

SAN DIEGO

5 booked after migrant boat capsizes

Federal officials filed charges Tuesday against five people in connection to a boat carrying migrants that capsized a day earlier off San Diego's Pacific coast, killing three people, including a 14-year-old boy from India. The boy's 10-year-old sister is still missing at sea and is presumed dead, the US Attorney's Office in San Diego said in a statement. Their parents were among four people who were injured and taken to the hospital, including the father, who is in a coma. The other two killed were from Mexico, including an 18-year-old boy and another man, according to the Mexican consulate.

TOKYO

Man stabs 2 at subway station

A man with a knife slashed two passengers on a train stopping at a Tokyo subway station during the evening rush on Wednesday, and their injuries were not believed to be life-threatening, Japanese police and media reported. The 43-year-old suspect was arrested at the scene on suspicion of attempted murder, Tokyo's metropolitan police said. The suspect's motives and other details were not immediately known.

ESCALATING WAR | Schools sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians attacked as the conflict enters its 20th month

59 killed in Gaza as Israel set to ramp up offensive

Agencies
GAZA STRIP

Israeli strikes across Gaza killed at least 59 people, including women and children, hospital officials said Wednesday, as Israel prepares to ramp up its campaign against Hamas in a devastating war now entering its 20th month.

The strikes included one attack on Tuesday night on a school sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians, which killed 27 people, officials from the Al-Aqsa Hospital said, including nine women and three children. It was the fifth time since the war began that the school in central Gaza has been struck.

An early morning strike on another school turned shelter in Gaza City killed 16 people, according to officials at Al-Ahli Hospital, while strikes on targets in other areas killed at least 16 others.

A large column of smoke rose and fires pierced the dark skies above the school shelter in Bureij, a built-up urban refugee camp. Paramedics and rescuers rushed to pull people out from the blaze.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the strikes. Israel blames Hamas for the death toll because it operates from civilian infrastructure, including schools.

The new bloodshed comes days after Israel approved a



'Only 21 hostages alive': Trump draws Israel' ire

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages. Israel's offensive has killed more than 52,000 people in Gaza, many of them women and children, according to Palestinian health officials. The officials do not distinguish between combatants and civilians in their count.

Trump on Tuesday

stunned many in Israel when he declared that only 21 of the 59 hostages remaining in Gaza are still alive. Israel insists that figure stands at 24, although an Israeli official said there was "serious concern" for the lives of three captives. The official said there has been no sign of life from those three, whom the official did not identify.

He said that until there is

evidence proving otherwise, the three are considered to be alive.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details related to the war, said the families of the captives were updated on those developments.

Hamas says it is prepared to release all of the hostages for an end to the war and a long term truce with Israel.

of thousands of reserve soldiers to carry out the plan. Israel says the plan will be gradual and will not be implemented until after US President Donald Trump wraps up his visit to the region later this month.

Any escalation of fighting would likely drive up the

death toll. And with Israel already controlling some 50% of Gaza, increasing its hold on the territory, for an indefinite amount of time, could open up the potential for a military occupation, which would raise questions about how Israel plans to have the territory governed.

Putin completes 25 yrs in Russia hot seat and still going strong

Agencies
MOSCOW

Exactly 25 years ago on May 7, an obscure ex-KGB colonel Vladimir Putin -- with little public exposure as deputy mayor of St Petersburg -- took the oath of the highest office in the post-Communist Russia.

A quarter century later, Putin, 72, still remains the most popular politician in Russia, as was evident by last year's election, which Putin won with 88.48 per cent of votes polled.

In a TV documentary shown on Sunday, he, however, said that he was looking for a successor, but it was not in his power as the successor would have to seek a popular vote in the elections with strong rivals.

For Putin, it has been a 25-year journey that has come to coincide with Russia's journey in the 21st century.

His predecessor Boris Yeltsin, Russia's first directly elected president, had resigned due to failing health on the backdrop of political instability, financial and economic, militancy in the Northern Caucasus and a spate of terrorist attacks. He handed Putin, the incumbent prime minister of the country, the hot Kremlin seat on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1999.

Putin was elected on March 26, 2000, bagging 53 per cent votes by beating Communist rival Gennady Zyuganov and liberal Yabloko block leader Grigory Yavlinsky in "reasonably free and fair" polls, according to a declassified US



Biden's 'appeasement' dig at Trump

London: Joe Biden said in his first post-presidential interview that President Donald Trump's pressure on Ukraine to give up territory to Russia amounts to "modern-day appeasement," a historically fraught term that refers to a failed effort to stop the Nazis from annexing land in Europe in the 1930s. Biden told BBC Radio 4s "Today" program in remarks aired on Wednesday that Trump's statements about acquiring Panama, Greenland and Canada have bred distrust in Europe. He also said it was a "difficult decision" to leave the US presidential race in 2024.

Russian attack kills 2 in Ukraine

Kyiv: Russia launched a ballistic missile and a barrage of drones at Ukraine's capital before dawn on Wednesday, killing at least two people in apartment buildings, Ukrainian officials said. Eight people were also wounded in the attack, including four children, the Kyiv City Military Administration said in a post on Telegram. The attack came before Russia's planned unilateral 72-hour ceasefire in the more than three-year war to coincide with celebrations in Moscow marking Victory Day in World War II. The US has proposed a 30-day ceasefire, which Ukraine has accepted, but the Kremlin has held out for ceasefire terms more to its liking.

Embassy cable from Moscow in 2024.

The way Putin resolutely fought Chechen militancy, assured timely pensions to the most vulnerable section of society, revived manufacturing in the country, generating employment, ensured a sec-

ond term with almost 72 per cent votes.

Due to constitutional restraint of two four-year consecutive terms, he stepped aside and took over the job of prime minister under President Dmitry Medvedev for four years.

US loses fighter jet as landing on aircraft carrier goes awry

Agencies
DUBAI

An F/A-18 fighter jet landing on the USS Harry S Truman aircraft carrier in the Red Sea went overboard, forcing its two pilots to eject, a defence official told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The incident Tuesday marks the latest mishap to mar the deployment of the Truman, which has been essential in the airstrike campaign by the United States against Yemen's Houthi rebels.

On Tuesday, US President Donald Trump and Oman's foreign minister both said that a ceasefire had been reached with the Houthis, who would no longer target ships in the Red Sea corridor - something not immediately acknowledged by the rebels.

Meanwhile, the Houthis continue to assess the damage after daytime Israeli airstrikes targeted Yemen's rebel-held capital of Sanaa.

The F/A-18 Super Hornet landed on the Truman after a



flight, but "the arrestment failed," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to speak publicly about the incident now under investigation.

"Arrestment" refers to the hook system used by aircraft landing on carriers, which catches steel wire ropes on the flight deck. It remains unclear what part of the system failed.

The two pilots on board were later rescued by a helicopter and suffered minor injuries in the incident, the official added. No one on the flight deck was hurt.

Tuesday's incident was the latest to see the Navy lose an F/A-18, which cost about \$60 million. In April, another F/A-18 fighter jet slipped off the hangar deck of the Truman and fell into the Red Sea. The crew members who were in the pilot seat of the Super Hornet and on the small towing tractor both jumped away.

In December, the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg mistakenly shot down an F/A-18 after ships earlier shot down multiple Houthi drones and an anti-ship cruise missile launched by the rebels. Both aviators in that incident also survived.

US, China officials to meet in Switzerland for tariff negotiations

Agencies
WASHINGTON

Top US officials are set to meet with a high-level Chinese delegation this weekend in Switzerland, the administration announced Tuesday, in the first major talks between the two nations since President Donald Trump sparked a trade war with stiff tariffs on imports.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and trade representative Jamieson Greer will meet with their counterparts in Geneva in the most-senior known conversations between the two countries in months. It comes amid growing US market worry over the impact of the tariffs on the prices and supply of consumer goods.

Trump had claimed previously that the US and China were holding negotiations on lowering tariffs, which Beijing has denied, saying

Trump must first lower his stiff tariffs. Bessent earlier Tuesday testified to a House committee that the US and China "have not engaged in negotiations" but "as early as this week," the US will be announcing trade deals with some of the US' largest trading partners.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry on Tuesday confirmed the meeting between the vice premier and Bessent in Switzerland.

"The Chinese side carefully evaluated the information from the US side and decided to agree to have contact with the US side after fully considering global expectations, Chinese interests and calls from US businesses and consumers," said a ministry spokesperson.

Bessent and Greer also plan to meet with Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter, according to readouts from their respective offices.

Auction of Buddha gems stalled after India threats

Agencies
HONG KONG

Sotheby's on Wednesday postponed an auction of jewels associated with Buddha's remains after the Indian government opposed the sale and demanded it be halted.

The gems for auction were found buried together in reliquaries with the corporeal relics of the historical Buddha and discovered in northern India in 1898, the auction house said. They dated back to around 240-200 BC, it said.

But India's Ministry of Culture said in a Facebook post on Tuesday it had issued a legal notice to Sotheby's Hong Kong to demand the immediate halt of the sale, accusing the auction of violating "Indian laws, international norms and UN conventions."

In its letter to Sotheby's Hong Kong dated Monday, posted on Facebook, it said the auction involves sacred Buddhist relics that constitute the inalienable religious and cultural heritage of India and the global Buddhist community. It demanded the repatriation of the relics to the Indian government and a public apology from the auction house and Chris Peppé.

Peppé is a great-grandson of British William Peppé, who excavated the relics.

The Indian government warned in the letter that failure to comply would result in legal actions.

Canadian PM says talks with Trump constructive despite no tariffs lifting



Agencies
OTTAWA

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said that he had wide-ranging and constructive discussions with US President Donald Trump in the White House, although the two leaders disagreed on tariffs lifting and the "51st state," according to the live broadcast of CBC News.

Giving a post-meeting news conference in Washington, Carney said that he and Trump agreed to have further conversations in the coming weeks and meet again in person at the G7 summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, Xinhua news agency reported.

Carney said he told Trump it's "not useful" to repeat the 51st state idea, adding that Trump is the president who is going to say whatever he wants. "He understands that we are having a negotiation between sovereign nations," said Carney.

Responding to the question if he is heading back to Ottawa with any tangible

progress on ending the trade war, Carney said they had some very specific things to follow up on and build out from that.

"These are the discussions you have when you're looking to find solutions," he said.

While Trump made it clear that the tariffs, especially those on the auto sector, would stay in place, Carney said, "We'll see."

Canadian workers and suppliers in auto plant towns are worried that the longer the tariff dispute goes on, the less likely those finished cars are to be sold, reported CBC News.

"If he (Trump) actually achieves shutting down production in Canada and Mexico, it doesn't mean he's going to get new production in the US," Flavio Volpe, president of Canada's Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, was quoted as saying.

Volpe said he hopes Carney will announce further meetings with Trump. "I want to know that we've set a date for the next game."

Columbia shows door to 180 after Trump cuts grants

Agencies
NEW YORK

Columbia University said Tuesday that it will be laying off nearly 180 staffers in response to President Donald Trump's decision to cancel \$400 million in funding over the Manhattan college's handling of student protests against the war in Gaza.

Those receiving non-renewal or termination notices Tuesday represent about 20% of the employees funded in some manner by the terminated federal grants, the university said in a statement Tuesday.

"We have had to make deliberate, considered decisions about the allocation of our financial resources," the



university said. "Those decisions also impact our greatest resource, our people. We understand this news will be

hard." University spokesperson Jessica Murphy declined to say whether more layoffs were expected, but said Columbia is taking a range of steps to create financial flexibility, including maintaining current salary levels and offering voluntary retirement incentives.

Research will also be scaled back, with some departments

winding down studies and others maintaining some level of research.

The layoffs, while expected, were "dispiriting" for faculty, said Marcel Agueros, secretary of Columbia's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, which has filed a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration.

Merz in France, Poland to put up united front in trade war

Agencies
BERLIN

Friedrich Merz made his world-affairs debut Wednesday as Germany's new chancellor, with plans to immediately team up with allies France and Poland to present a united European front on support for Ukraine and against US President Donald Trump's trade war.

The new pairing of Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron - both

firm believers in the European Union - could help stiffen resistance from the 27-nation bloc against pressure from Trump and against Russia's continuing war in Ukraine.

With the EU's largest economies and populations, the tandem of Germany and France has long underpinned the 27-nation bloc but lost some of its vigour in recent months as leaders in both countries wrestled with domestic issues.

Merz and Macron are hoping to give the relationship fresh impetus at a crucial time, with Russian President Vladimir Putin both exerting pressure on the EU, forcing it to rethink its own security.

Merz's trips come the day after his historic defeat in the first round of voting in the German parliament. No other postwar candidate for German chancellor has failed to win on the first ballot. He won in the second round.

Agencies
VATICAN CITY

With all the pomp, drama and solemnity that the Catholic Church can muster, 133 cardinals on Wednesday began centuries-old rituals to elect a successor to Pope Francis, celebrating a morning Mass before opening the most geographically diverse conclave in the faith's 2,000-year history.

The dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, presided over the service, urging the voters to set aside all personal interests

and find a pope who prizes unity. The world today needs a leader who can awaken consciences, he said.

From the altar of St Peter's Basilica, Re prayed that the cardinals can agree "on the pope that our time needs," as he offered a final set of marching orders before they enter the Sistine Chapel later Wednesday to begin the secret voting.

Hailing from 70 countries, the cardinals are being sequestered from the outside world, their cellphones surrendered, and airwaves



around the Vatican jammed to prevent all communications until they find a new leader for the 1.4 billion-member church.

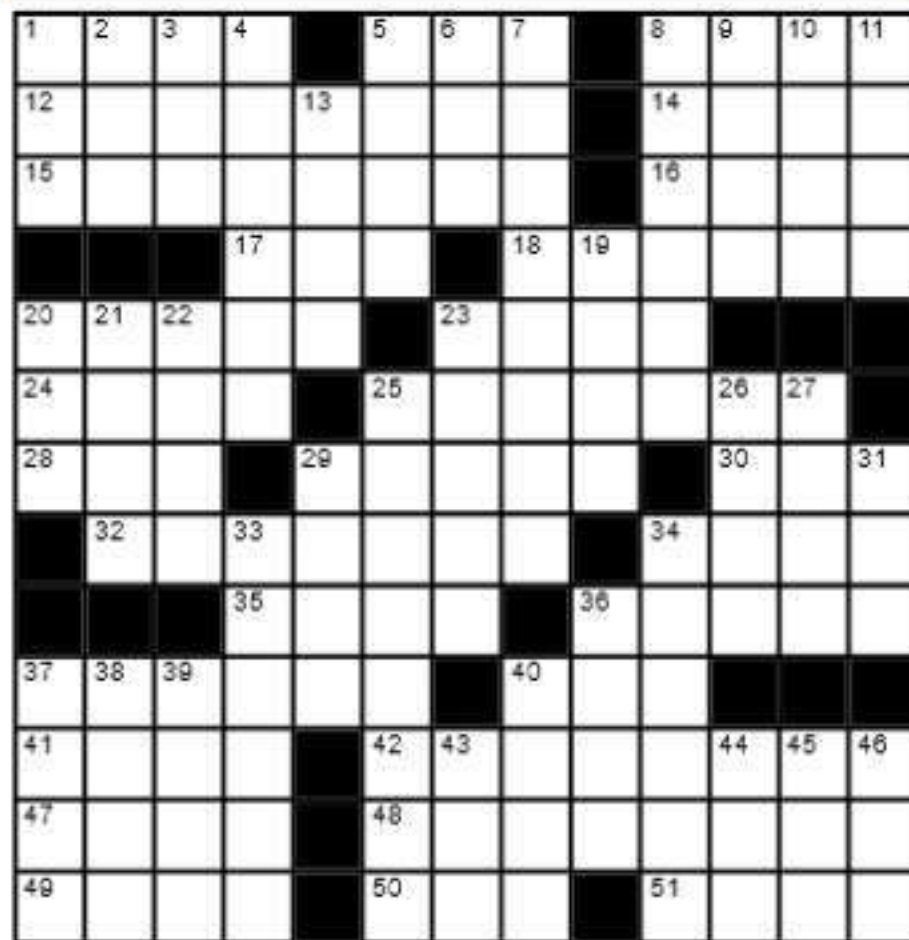
Francis named 108 of the

133 "princes of the church," choosing many pastors in his image from far-flung countries like Mongolia, Sweden and Tonga that had never had a cardinal before.

His decision to surpass the usual limit of 120 cardinal electors and include younger ones from the "global south" - often marginalized countries with lower economic clout - has injected an unusual degree of uncertainty in a process that is always full of mystery and suspense, with smoke signals telling the world if a pope has been elected or not.

Many cardinals hadn't met one another until last week and lamented they needed more time to get to know each other.

Crossword #1495



Across

- 1 Hairless
- 5 Sigh of contentment
- 8 In Greek mythology she was cup-bearer to the gods
- 12Way before time (3,5)
- 14Consumer
- 15Improved or bettered
- 16Hacienda room - "alas" anagram ?
- 17Might
- 18Outcome
- 20Important
- 23Des Moines is the capital of this U.S. state
- 24It's full form? (2,2)
- 25Vexed or enraged
- 28Calendar abbr.
- 29Rummier
- 30A Japanese copper coin
- 32Yehudi ____ : the famous violinist?
- 34South America's "ostrich"
- 35Between two ports
- 36Long for
- 37Ledger entries
- 40Clothing edge
- 41Gone sans permission
- 42Start
- 47Tennis legend Lacoste
- 48Disappears
- 49 ____ state of affairs: unfortunate circumstances (1,3)
- 50Ambulance person: abbr.
- 51Nav. readings

Down

- 1 British Thermal Unit, in short
- 2 Assoc. of Optical Practitioners
- 3 Laughing out loud, acronym?
- 4 Smaller moon of Mars
- 5 Showily pretentious
- 6 Alcoholic beverage
- 7 Lightest gas
- 8 Cavalry soldier
- 9 Jacob's twin brother
- 10As sound as a ____ ?
- 11Quod __ demonstrandum
- 13A long way off
- 19Large water jug
- 20Minimum, abbr.
- 21Very small particle
- 22Swing music
- 23Asian country
- 25A glue
- 26Bollywood's ____ Deol
- 27Horned animal
- 29Expel
- 31A Bobbsey twin
- 33Secured with brad
- 34Negligent or careless
- 36Himalayan myth
- 37Indian wrestling great ____ Singh
- 38Female sheep
- 39 ____ fide : real and genuine ?
- 40Innuendo or insinuation
- 43Vietnam, colloquially and in short ?
- 44American Helicopter Society
- 4520th letter of the alphabet
- 46The letter "S"

YOUR DAY By Vinayak Vishwas Karandikar



ARIES: Today is the day to study, enjoy family life, do business or travel. Expect expenditure on entertainment, businesses, education, vehicles or spouses. People in event management, the automobile industry, entertainment, art, and the travel industry will get success. A family function or travel with family is indicated. Some people may suffer from skin troubles, kidney problems or diabetes. Lucky no.: 3; Lucky colour: Yellow



TAURUS: You may travel today. Take care of your health. Expect expenditure on medical bills, travel or communication. People in art, advertising, entertainment, medicine, and banking will benefit. A dispute with your younger sibling or spouse is indicated. Some people may suffer from skin diseases, kidney issues or eye problems. Lucky no.: 8; Lucky colours: Black, Blue



GEMINI: Today is the day to enjoy, travel and spend. Expect expenditure on luxury items, vehicles, children or travel. People in art, entertainment, sports, and tourism will benefit. A picnic or a long journey with family is indicated. Some people may suffer from sexual problems or eye troubles. Lucky no.: 9



CANCER: It is a day to be with family. You might spend the time studying or enjoying the day. Expect expenditure on houses, vehicles or education. People in the automobile industry, art, entertainment, and education will benefit. You will enjoy decorating or renovating your house. Some people may suffer from diabetes or eye problems. Lucky no.: 6; Lucky colour: Pink



LEO: Today is the day to travel, spend and enjoy. Expect expenditure related to businesses, travel, communication or premium services. People in tourism, advertising, entertainment, art, and maintenance will benefit. A long journey or a picnic is indicated. Some people may suffer from knee pain or shoulder pain. Lucky no.: 2; Lucky colours: silver, white



VIRGO: Today is the day to earn, travel and study. Expect expenditure on education, travel or entertainment. People in entertainment, art, and tourism will benefit. A happy time with family members is indicated. Some people may suffer from eye problems, throat pain or skin diseases. Lucky no.: 5; Lucky colour: Green



LIBRA: Today physical and mental stress and loss are indicated for you, so take care. Expect expenditure on businesses, health, premium services or vehicles. People associated with entertainment, art, pubs, boarding and lodging, and the automobile industry will benefit. Illness of a family member is indicated. You may suffer from skin diseases, kidney issues, hernias



SCORPIO: Today is the day for expenditure, travel, business and enjoyment. Expect expenditure on luxury items, beauty products, entertainment or travel. People in art, entertainment, tourism, and the beauty industry will benefit. A long journey, picnic or tour with family is indicated. You may suffer from kidney problems, hernias or eye problems. Lucky no.: 3; Lucky colours: Yellow, Safron



SAGITTARIUS: Today you may get your stuck money back. Expect expenditure on health, houses, vehicles or premium services. People in the automobile industry, entertainment, art, and the medical field will get success. Disputes with family members are indicated. Some people may suffer from stomach pain, kidney issues or sexual problems. Lucky no.: 1; Lucky colour: Orange



CAPRICORN: Today is the day for enjoyment, business, travel and communication. Expect expenditure on businesses, children or entertainment. People in art, entertainment, sports, advertisement, and event management will get success. Your married and love lives will be romantic. It is time to see movies and plays and attend parties. Lucky no.: 6; Lucky colour: Pink



AQUARIUS: Today is the day to study and travel. Expect expenditure related to education, interior decoration, vehicles or travel. People in art, education, interior decoration, architecture, and the automobile industry will benefit. A get-together or a party is expected in your house. Some people may suffer from indigestion or chest pains. Lucky no.: 7; Lucky colour: Grey



PISCES: Today loss is indicated, so act wisely. Expect expenditure on children, premium services, maintenance or health. People working in liquor shops, bars, and pubs, or those associated with fields like art, entertainment, and insurance will benefit. A family dispute is indicated, so try to avoid it. Some people may suffer from back pain, shoulder pain or kidney problems.

FPJ - SUDOKU - 386

	4		8			6	1	
			4	7	9			5
	9			5			2	
4	5	7					6	
	1			6				7
					7	1		
	6		5		4		7	
	7		9	1				6
9		3		2	6	5		

Solution

Down: 1 BTU, 2 AOP, 3 Lot, 4 Deimos, 5 Arty, 6 Ale, 7 Hydrogen, 8 Hussar, 9 Esau, 10 Bell, 11 Erit, 13 Ajar, 19 Ewer, 20 Min, 21 Atom, 22 Jive, 23 India, 25 Adhesive, 26 Esha, 27 Deer, 29 Ours, 31 Nam, 33 Nailed, 34 Remiss, 36 Yet, 37 Dara, 38 Ewes, 39 Bona, 40 Hint, 43 Nam, 44 AHS, 45 Tee, 46 Ess, 47 Rene, 48 Vanishes, 49 A sad, 50 EMT, 51 SSES.

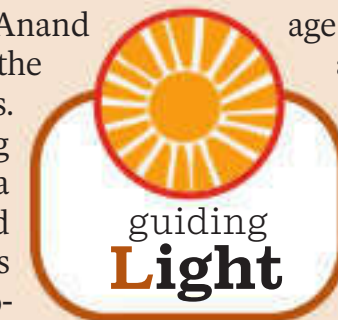
1	4	5	9	2	7	3	8	6
9	8	2	3	1	6	4	7	5
3	7	6	4	8	5	1	9	2
8	5	1	7	4	2	6	3	9
7	6	4	5	9	3	2	1	8
2	9	3	8	6	1	7	5	4
4	2	7	1	5	9	8	6	3
5	3	8	6	7	4	9	2	1
6	1	9	2	3	8	5	4	7

WHAT TO DO: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

Changing Mindsets, Healing The Planet

—Rajyogi Brahma Kumar Nikunj Ji

Recently, news channels and newspapers carried the news of a 2-metre-tall statue of Nataraja being installed on the premises of one of the world's premier scientific institutes, CERN. Some say that the Nataraja statue explains the structure of the atom, and therefore scientists decided to place it in the CERN campus. Whereas some are saying that the posture of the statue called 'Anand Tandavam' is similar to the motion of sub-atoms. The most surprising answer came from a scientist who expressed that Lord Shankar's form of Nataraja symbolises the cosmic dance of creation and destruction.



scientific study into climate change has concluded that almost all of the summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is likely to disappear by late this century because of global warming. Such an eventuality is inevitable because of the unstoppable momentum of global warming, which is being caused by the emission of greenhouse gases which trap heat in the atmosphere, raising the average temperature. The reason for all this is human karma against nature, and now is the time to reap the bitter fruits of those selfish and arrogant attitudes and activities. Now that we are truly in an emergency situation, what is to be done?

To start with, we need to CHANGE. Yes! It's high time that we now become responsible in our relationship with nature and with each other. Unless we check and change the basis of our growth process and attune our lifestyle to respect the laws of nature, we can be sure that nature will continue to strike more ferociously. (Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal & UK. Till Date, 8500+ Published Columns have been written by Him)

(nikunjji@gmail.com/www.brahmakumaris.com)

SAIBABA & SWAMI SAMARTH MESSAGE FOR THE DAY

Today is extremely important; make the most of it. It is a day for learning, luxury, and contemplation.

You will receive answers from us if you sit silently and meditate.

Heal your doubts and anxiety, and surrender your worries for magic to happen. We loved the sandalwood offering.



Tip for the day: Offer rose water and say, "Baba and Swami, let the fragrance of joy fill our lives." The next day, sprinkle it on yourself, your family, and your home.

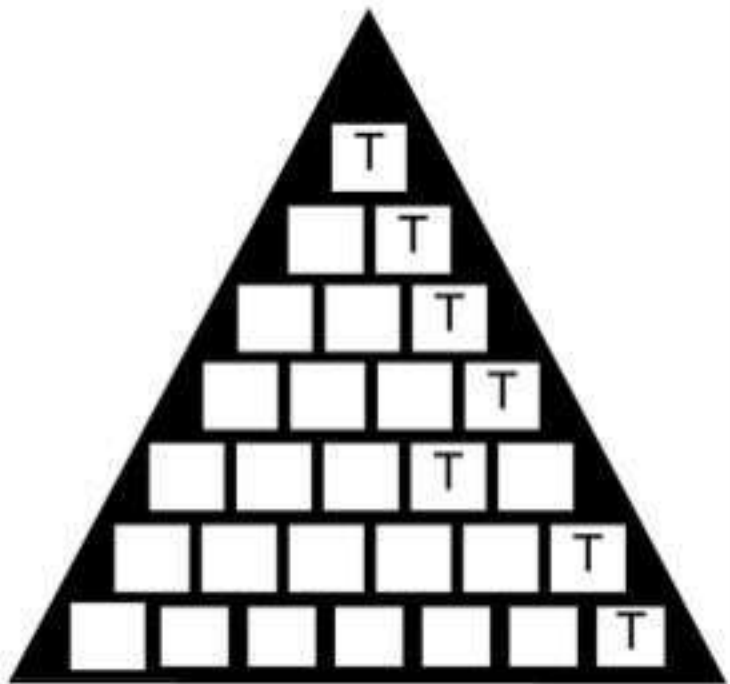
Lots of divine miracles your way, Sheetal Sapan Mhatre.



ALPHA TRIANGLE

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

- 1 Tonne, abbr.
- 2 Astatine for the chemist
- 3 Chow down
- 4 Orient
- 5 Flavour
- 6 Certify
- 7 Most corpulent



T, At, Eat, East, Taste, Attest, Fattest.

Solution to Alpha Triangle

S G E R H S E C E I P W S
E C R E E V E T S T E B P
L E U L A V A L K Y L I I
E J T A R R Z Y U K O W H
C S N E T P L E G R H T C
T N U D S N R I C B A S S
I G M S E J F O U E N W N
O I B V R T D L S E D G E
N S E E S A C G K K L A K
T E R D N K H O L D E M O
S D S T Y L E S P A I D T
E I E T L D I A M O N D S
B C A R D S C A S I N O S

Poker

Can you find the words connected in one way or the other with the theme indicated by the title in today's Word Search? The words may be read horizontally, vertically or diagonally either forwards or backwards, but always in straight lines. Use a ruler to cross them through as you find them.

- Ante

Best

Bets

Cards

Case

Casinos

Chips

Club

Dealer
- Designs

Diamonds

Edge

Evenly

Gifts

Handle

Hearts

Holdem

Numbers
- Paid

Pieces

Pros

Rate

Rules

Selection

Styles

Tokens

Value



Go Figure



Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once. Operations should be carried out sequentially. BODMAS rule does not apply.

The operators:



Easy

= 21

3 4 4 7

Medium

= 29

2 3 6 7

Hard

= 20

2 3 5 8

Our Solutions:
Easy - 7 x 4 / 4 x 3 = 21
Medium - 3 x 2 x 6 - 7 = 29
Hard - 5 - 3 + 8 x 2 = 20

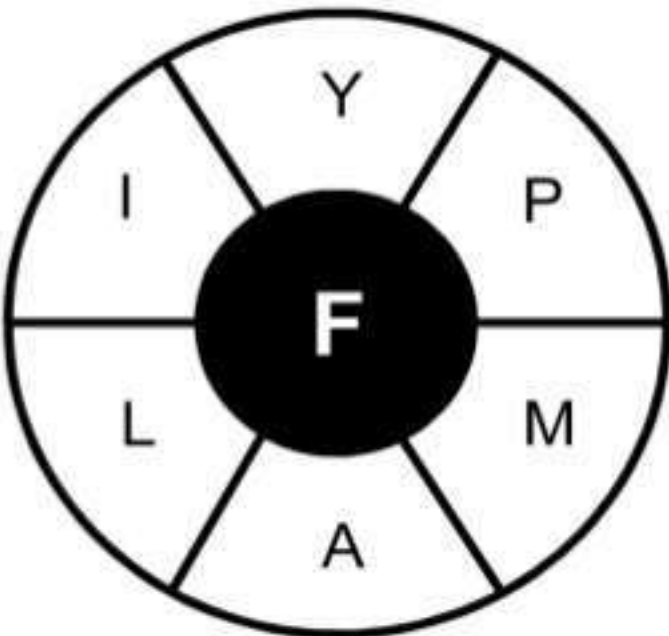
Riddler

This is a test to gauge your mental flexibility, creativity and cunning. Good Luck!
(Example: 16 O in a P. Answer: 16 Ounces in a Pound)
13 L in a B D

Answer: 13 Leaves in a baker's dozen

BULL'S EYE

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Each word can use a letter only once and must contain the central letter. There should be at least one 7-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

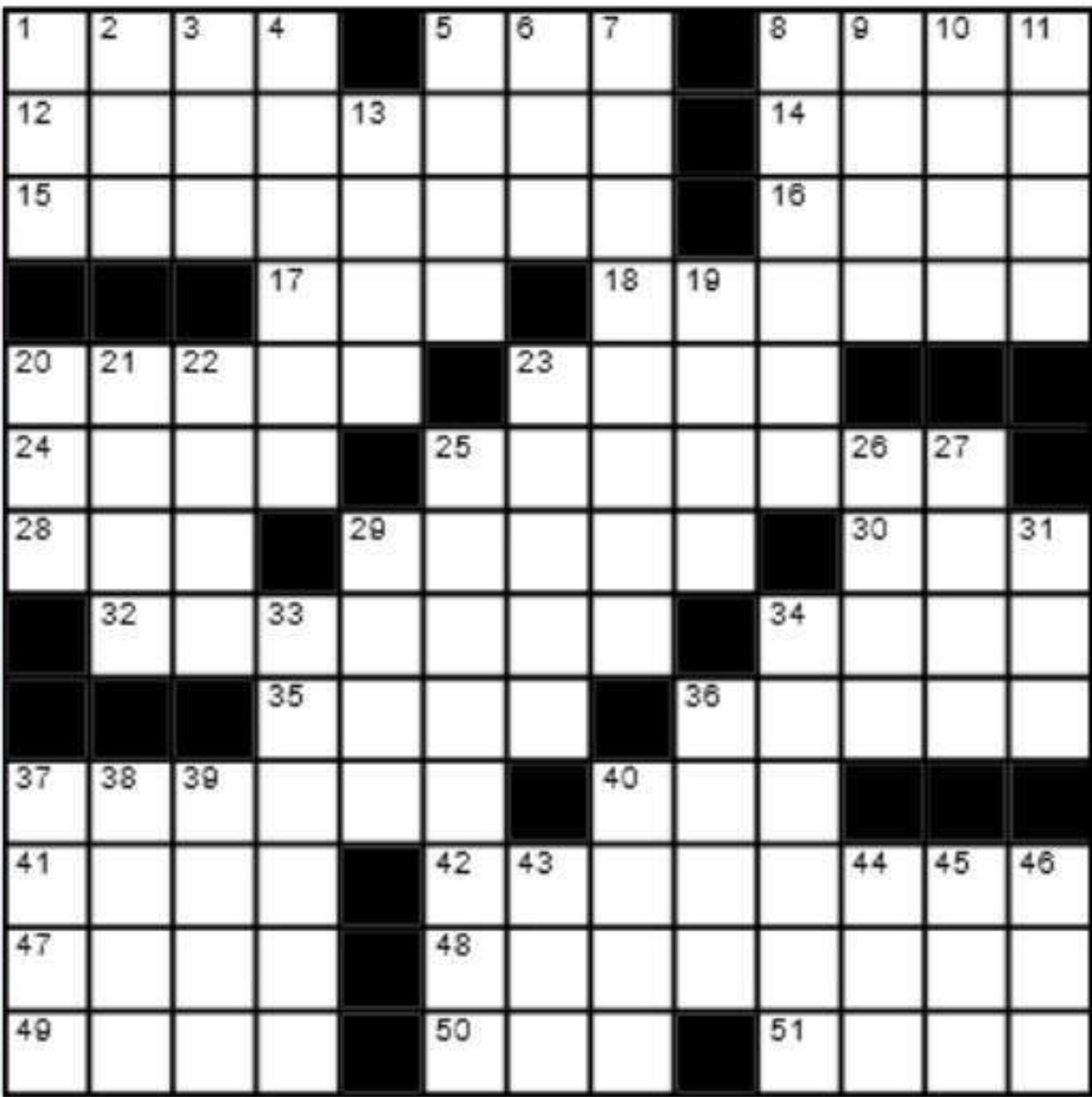


Ratings:

05 average; 06 good; 08 outstanding.

SOLUTION :
AMPLIFY, fail, family, film, filmy, film, flap, flay, flip

Crossword #1495



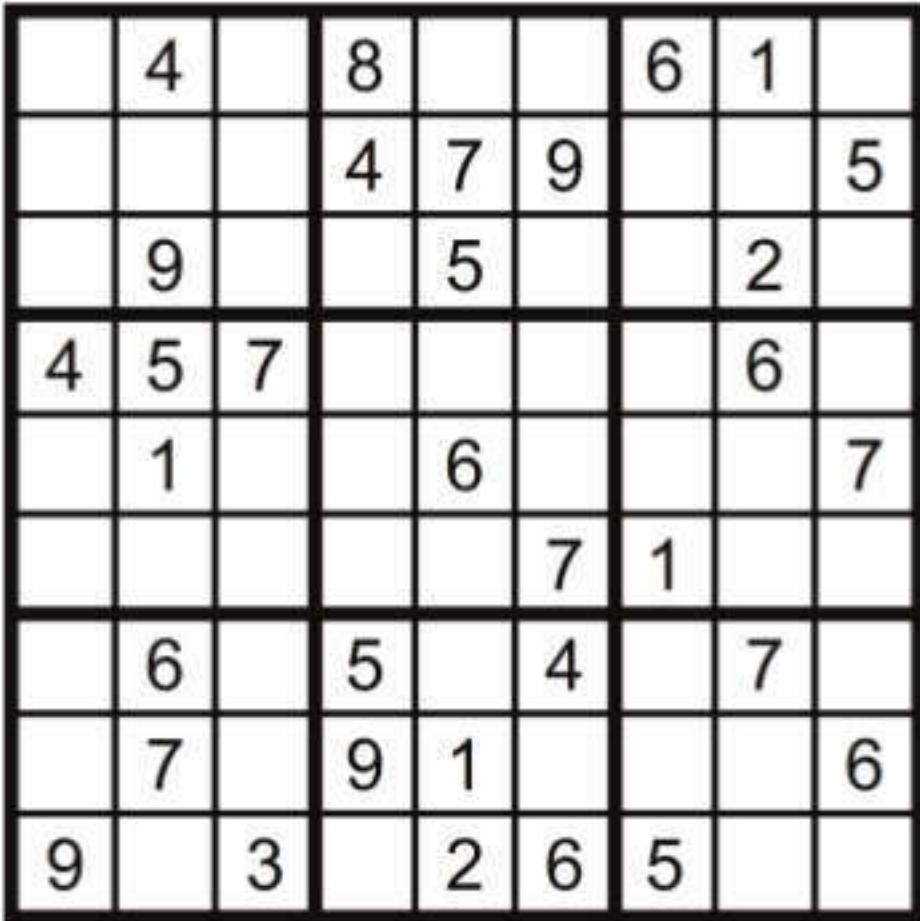
Across

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- 27Horned animal
- 29Expel
- 31A Bobbey twin
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- 4520th letter of the alphabet
- 46The letter "S"

SUDOKU



43 Nam, 44 AHS, 45 Tee, 46 Ess.
37 Dan, 38 Ewes, 39 Bona, 40 Hint,
31 Nam, 33 Nailed, 34 Remiss, 36 Yet,
25 Adhesive, 26 Esna, 27 Deer, 29 Oust,
20 Min, 21 Atom, 22 Jive, 23 India,
9 Esau, 10 Bell, 11 Eat, 13 Alar, 19 Ewer,
5 Any, 6 Ale, 7 Hydrogen, 8 Hussar,
Down: 1 BTU, 2 AOR, 3 Lol, 4 Demos,
sad, 50 EMT, 51 SSES.
42 Initiate, 47 Rene, 48 Vanishes, 49 A
36 Yeam, 37 Debits, 40 Hem, 41 Awol,
30 Sen, 32 Menuhin, 34 Rhea, 35 Asea,
24 It is, 25 Angered, 28 Nov, 29 Odder,
17 May, 18 Result, 20 Major, 23 Iowa,
early, 14 User, 15 Uplifted, 16 Sala,
Across: 1 Bald, 5 Ash, 8 Hebe, 12 Too



WHAT TO DO: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

Essential Gardening Tools: The must-have watering can

Savitha B

A skilled gardener maximizes the efficiency of every available resource. In this vibrant realm of horticulture, where plants thrive and unfold their beauty, a pivotal instrument commands attention—the watering can. Beyond its utilitarian purpose, a watering can is a gardener's trusted companion, a vessel of nurturing care that ensures plants receive the attention they need. In this article, we will explore the different types of watering cans and delve into their varied uses, highlighting why these simple yet essential tools are a must-have for every gardener.



careful attention, and a watering can with a rose attachment or a fine spout is perfect for providing a gentle shower of water. This prevents seedlings from being disturbed or damaged during the critical early stages of growth.

• **Disease prevention:** Watering cans contribute to plant health by minimizing water contact with foliage. Splashing water onto leaves can spread diseases, and the precise application of a watering can helps keep plants healthier and more resistant to pests and pathogens.



Types of watering cans:

Traditional watering can:

Recognizable by its classic design, featuring a long spout and a curved handle, the traditional watering can is a timeless favorite among gardeners. Its simplicity and functionality make it suitable for a wide range of plants, from delicate flowers to hearty vegetables.

Rose watering can:

With a rose attachment at the end of the spout, this type of watering can ensures a gentle and even distribution of water. Ideal for nurturing young seedlings and plants with sensitive foliage, the rose watering can prevents soil erosion and minimizes the risk of overwatering.

Haws watering can:

Characterized by its elegant and ergonomic design, the Haws watering can is a favorite among avid gardeners. Its sleek shape, balance, and long spout make it easy to reach plants in tight spaces or hanging baskets. Haws cans are often made of high-quality materials, ensuring durability and longevity.

Self-watering can:

Modern gardening has introduced self-watering cans with built-in reservoirs or mechanisms that allow for automatic watering. These innovative cans are particularly convenient for those with busy schedules or for plants that require consistent moisture levels.

Uses of watering cans:

Seedling care:

Delicate seedlings require careful attention, and a watering can with a rose attachment or a fine spout is perfect for providing a gentle shower of water. This prevents seedlings from being disturbed or damaged during the critical early stages of growth.

• **Targeted watering:** Watering cans allow gardeners to target specific areas or plants that require extra care. This is especially crucial in areas with diverse plant types or varying water needs.

• **Precision watering:** Watering cans offer a level of precision that hoses and sprinklers cannot match. Gardeners can direct water precisely to the base of plants, minimizing water wastage and ensuring that the roots receive adequate hydration.

So, the next time you embark on your gardening adventure, don't forget to grab your watering can—it's the magical wand that brings life and vitality to your green oasis.

Amritha K

Colouring your hair is the new 'it' thing; social media is proof! The introduction of home-grown, vegan and cruelty-free brands seems responsible for the increasing number of people colouring the tresses in pretty, funky colours. For natural Indian hair, which varies from jet black to a deep brown, bleaching is the first step in hair colouring. The dark shade of our hair has to be lightened if you want the preppy colours to be visible. When bleach is applied to hair, it oxidises the melanin granules that make it look black. Because this causes hair damage, your hair needs to be in good condition before you bleach it. If your hair is dry or damaged, wait a month or two before you bleach it. While you're waiting, you can revive your hair. At least two weeks before you bleach your hair, start preparing it - that is, by applying oil regularly, pausing hair styling and straightening and regularly conditioning.

We've all heard it and still hear it - 'don't bleach your hair, it ruins it', but well-behaved women (and men) seldom have fun (or something like that), right? So, while there will be certain damage to your hair, proper hair care after bleaching and colouring can go a long way. Here are certain points you need to keep in mind before bleaching your hair. Take a look.

Things to keep in mind before bleaching hair

■ **Know your hair type:** Is your hair suited for bleach? Bleaching dries the hair and causes damage, so if your hair is dry and prone to damage, you may want to improve your hair health before bleaching hair.

■ **Research different brands:** Spend time and search for the types of bleaching agents available and what your hair specialist is likely to use. Also, decide whether you want to go for a store-bought bleach or a natural ingredient.

■ **Bleach makes the hair dry:** It is no secret that bleaching causes the hair strands to go dry, and hair strands are damaged. Are you ready to let your hair go through that damage? Consult a professional as to what steps to take to minimise damage.

■ **Choose a colour to suit your skin tone:** Not all skin tones will suit all shades of hair tones. If you cannot make up your mind, try doing a colour test with computer images. Seeing yourself in different hair tones can help you decide better. Another thing that you can do is visit a wig store and try different coloured wigs. Ooor, you can just go crazy and colour your head the shade you wish - who's stopping you!

■ **No going back:** Before you bleach all the hair, do a test run. Try bleaching a portion of your hair, some area which is not much visible. If your hair and scalp are in good condition after the bleach, that means it suits you, and you can go ahead and bleach throughout.

■ **Test before a complete change:** Whatever your decision regarding bleaching hair, always keep in mind that there is no going back once you bleach. So, think twice or even thrice and take a decision with all confidence.

■ **Your hair will require extra care:** Normal hair requires care for health and bounce, and for bleaching hair white, you need to be careful to cover all the strands. You need to be careful about washing bleached hair and check the changing colour as time passes. Use dry shampoo as far as possible. Try to keep hair tangle-free. Use products made for bleached hair.

■ **Check scalp health:** Your scalp needs to be in good health before a hair bleaching session. If you have any infection, are undergoing chemotherapy or radiation, have lice or scratchy scalp, try to get that healed first. Bleaching can worsen these conditions.

Bleaching your hair? Know this first

Step-by-step guide to bleach your hair

Now that you have an idea of whether bleaching is suitable for your hair, here is a step-by-step on how you can do it at home.

• **Step 1:** Get all your supplies ready - bleach powder, developer, plastic bowl, brush and gloves.

• **Step 2:** Wear some old clothes.

• **Step 3:** Section your hair.

• **Step 4:** Mix the developer and bleach (as per instructions).

• **Step 5:** Apply the bleach and cover your hair with aluminium foil or a plastic bag.

• **Step 6:** Apply the colour first to the tips and mid-lengths of your hair as they take longer to lighten than roots.

• **Step 7:** Let the bleach sit for at least 20 minutes before you apply the colour to the roots.

• **Step 8:** Do not leave the bleach on for more than 30-45 minutes.

• **Step 9:** After 45 minutes, rinse the bleach out thoroughly using a mild shampoo to balance the pH levels of your scalp.

• **Step 10:** Air-dry your hair, and now you are free to colour your tresses!

Warning: If you notice redness, itching, or burning after you have kept the bleach on your hair for a while, please wash the bleach off and consult a doctor.

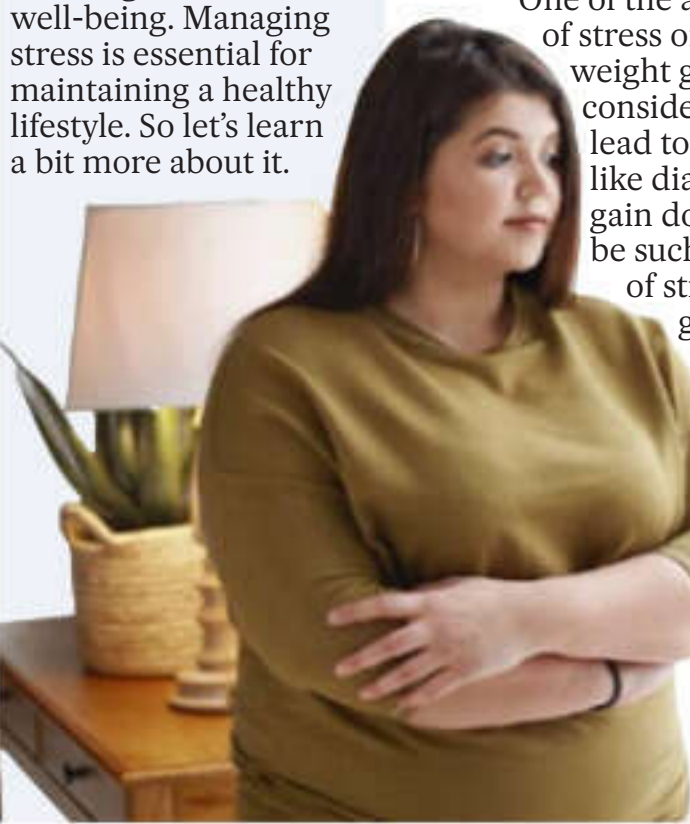
Note: If you are having second thoughts about bleaching your hair at home, go to a salon and get it done by a professional.



Stress is linked with weight gain, scientists reveal

Sakhi Pandey

Stress is a very common term thrown around casually whenever one is feeling pressurized or burdened because of various factors known as stressors like overloading work, functions, exams, etc. It can manifest not only in the form of emotional strain but also as physical symptoms, affecting overall well-being. Managing stress is essential for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. So let's learn a bit more about it.



However, what exactly is stress?

Stress is nothing but a physical, bodily response to stressors around us. When under a lot of pressure or feeling stressed, our body thinks that we are going under attack and therefore secretes a lot of hormones to deal with the stress or to fight back. If this mental state is prolonged, it could lead to some awful effects on health and in some cases - death, as explained by Hans Selye's GAS Model of Stress.

One of the adverse effects of stress on health is weight gain. Although, considering stress can lead to worse diseases like diabetes, weight gain doesn't seem to be such a bad effect of stress. However, gaining weight due to stress is not something one should take lightly. Weight gain itself can lead to heart problems, cancer, diabetes,

strokes and even depression at times. Stress is one of the main reasons weight is gained by a lot of people around the world, as proven by science and scientists working on the adverse effects of stress. When one is under a lot of stress, they might start losing appetite as a result, however, when you start experiencing chronic stress, i.e., when stressors are present in the environment over a long period of time, generally for over a few months, a person is said to be experiencing chronic stress. With chronic stress comes overeating, as stress actually makes one more hungry than usual due to all the hormonal imbalances in the body.

In chronic stress, the body enters survival mode, triggering excessive hunger and overeating as it falsely perceives calorie depletion from stress-induced efforts, despite not having actually burned those calories. This creates a compelling urge to compensate for the perceived calorie loss during the stress response.

So then why go in for "Comfort foods" and not something healthy?

While going through a stressful episode, our body secretes a hormone known as cortisol, also known as "the stress hormone." Secretion of this hormone into the body increases the level of insulin in the body. An increase in insulin leads to a decrease in the blood sugar level. Therefore, this fall in blood sugar level makes one crave for food that is sugary and sweet as well as fatty foods in general. That is why we choose having an ice cream or cake over a full course healthy meal or a bowl of vegetables or salad. It's not just because it tastes better but also because your body practically demands it. That's why sugary, fatty foods are called comfort foods—stress makes us crave them, leading to weight gain, especially belly fat.

Why is it important to keep our weight in check?

Although the weight gain is caused due to stress, the factors inculcate overeating and eating junk food, which is how we gain weight generally and therefore it is extremely unhealthy.

■ First things first, weight gain affects more than how our body looks on the outside. It is responsible for causing a number of health issues like heart problems and diabetes and thus obesity needs to be kept in check and one of the ways to do that is to take less stress or avoid overeating and exercising more often and eating foods like fruits, etc.

■ Second, it battles with the shape of your body. A lot of people feel more confident when they look their best and weight gain as well as loss due to stress disrupts that state of being and therefore becomes a problem.

Understanding the risk factors and importance of early detection in ovarian cancer

MUMBAI

Ovarian cancer remains one of the most challenging gynecological cancers due to its subtle symptoms and late detection. This article sheds light on the risk factors of ovarian cancer. Furthermore, know why timely detection can be life-saving for women.

Ovarian cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the ovaries and often goes undetected until it has spread. In advanced stages, symptoms may include abdominal bloating, pelvic pain, frequent urination, and changes in bowel habits. Risk factors include age, family history, and genetic mutations like BRCA1/2. Awareness and early check-ups are key to improving outcomes and saving lives.

"One of the strongest known risk factors for ovarian cancer is genetics. Women who carry inherited mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes are at a much higher risk of developing ovarian cancer. These genetic

mutations can be passed down from either parent, and women with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer should consider genetic counseling. Besides BRCA mutations, Lynch syndrome, a condition linked to colon and endometrial cancers, also increases the risk. Age is another significant factor. Most ovarian cancers are diagnosed in women over 50, with risk increasing as women grow older. However, it's important to note that younger women are not immune, especially if other risk factors are present. A family history of ovarian, breast, or Survival rate for ovarian cancer significantly improves with early diagnosis. If caught in the early stages (Stage I), a woman will be able to improve her quality of life. Unfortunately, due to vague symptoms like bloating, pelvic pain, or changes in bowel habits, many cases are diagnosed at a later stage. Remember, timely intervention is key to detect and manage this cancer," said Dr Kekan Gala, Gynecologist Apollo Spectra, Mumbai.

Explaining about the screening for this cancer, Dr Deep Vora, Oncologist, Zynova Shalby Hospital Mumbai said, "There is currently no effective standard screening test for ovarian cancer, which makes awareness all the more crucial. However, regular pelvic exams, ultrasound imaging in high-risk cases, and being vigilant about symptoms can help detect it earlier.



Women with a strong family history or known genetic risk should undergo regular check-ups and discuss preventative options with their doctors. While Pap smears do not detect ovarian cancer, regular gynecological visits help identify changes that might signal a problem. For those at high risk, transvaginal ultrasounds and CA-125 blood tests may be recommended. Lifestyle choices also matter. Maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding smoking, and staying physically active can help lower the risk. Being informed about one's family history and understanding symptoms will help women to seek timely treatment. So, early awareness, genetic screening, and informed choices can make a life-saving difference for women."

Childhood under pressure:

The silent crisis in children's mental health

Dr Maitri Thakker

Clinical Psychologist, Lilavati Hospital Mumbai

Children are not small adults. Their minds are still forming, still fragile. And yet, the pressures we place on them today could break even the strongest among us. Mental Health Awareness Month serves as a critical reminder that mental wellness begins early. In recent years, clinicians, educators, and parents alike have witnessed a worrying trend: childhood is no longer the sanctuary it once was. Across age groups, children are reporting heightened levels of stress, anxiety, sadness, and isolation. It's time we pause and ask are we doing enough to protect their mental health?

The changing face of childhood

In a world that increasingly celebrates achievement, independence and digital connectivity, one group is quietly shouldering a burden it was never meant to bear our children. The idyllic idea of a carefree childhood is being replaced by a reality of relentless academic pressure, screen-induced overstimulation, social comparison, and emotional isolation. As adults look ahead, children today are being pushed to grow up faster than ever before often at the cost of their mental well-being.

The invisible weight of expectations

Children rarely say, "I'm anxious" or "I feel low." Instead, they show us. A once-active child becoming withdrawn. A playful child suddenly erupts in anger. Physical symptoms like frequent headaches or stomach pain, trouble sleeping, or changes in appetite may mask deeper emotional struggles. Yet, in our rush to correct behavior, we often overlook its roots. Labeling a child as "difficult," "lazy," or "overdramatic" risks missing the distress signals they're sending out in the only way they know how.

From school assessments to co-curricular achievements, the bar for "success" keeps rising. Children as young as five are expected to display focus, discipline, and self-regulation, even as their brains are still developing the capacity to manage complex emotions. Adolescents are bombarded with unrealistic standards from academic excellence to body image through social media and peer culture. For many, childhood has become less about play and more about performance.

What does stress look like in a child?

Unlike adults, children rarely express their distress in words. They show it in behavior, sleep patterns, appetite changes, somatic complaints, or emotional outbursts. What might seem like "acting out" or "withdrawing" may be a child's only way to say: "I'm not okay."

Common stress triggers in children:

Academic pressure: High expectations, fear of failure, comparison with peers, and the looming pressure of exams can overwhelm young minds. Even well-meaning encouragement can become burdensome if children internalize it as performance-based worth. Every child has their own pace and personality; comparing them to peers and affirming achievement over effort can lead to emotional upheaval and distress.



Family changes & conflict: Events like divorce, the loss of a loved one, or even a house move can disrupt a child's sense of safety. Constant arguments or financial tension at home can lead to anxiety, confusion, or emotional shutdown.

Over-scheduling: Many children today have little time for rest or unstructured play. Between school, classes, and extra curricular, they are often exhausted, emotionally depleted, and struggling silently.

Peer pressure & social media: The digital world exposes children to constant comparison, validation-seeking, and cyber bullying. The pressure to "fit in" or appear perfect can deeply impact their self-esteem.

Health issues: Chronic illnesses—whether the child's or a family member's—can create anxiety, insecurity, and feelings of helplessness. Even missing school due to frequent colds can increase academic stress.

Uncertainty about the future: Shifts in school routines, friendships, or parental work schedules may make children feel powerless or unsafe, especially when they're not included in conversations about change.

The neuroscience of childhood stress

The science is unequivocal: chronic stress in childhood alters the architecture of the developing brain. It affects areas responsible for emotional regulation, attention, and memory. Over time, this can result in anxiety disorders, depression, learning difficulties, and behavioral issues. But just as early stress can harm, the good news is that early support can heal. The developing brain is remarkably plastic—it can reorganize and recover, especially when nurtured in safe, validating environments.

What caregivers must remember

We must replace the expectation of premature maturity with an understanding of developmental needs. Every tantrum, shutdown, or anxious refusal to attend school may be a cry for help—not a failure of discipline. Here's how we can support children more effectively:

• **Listen to create emotional safety with presence, not pressure:** When a child shares something difficult, resist the urge to fix or lecture. Sometimes, being heard is enough. Encourage open conversations about feelings.

• **Model emotional hygiene:** Let children see you express emotions in healthy ways. Show them that sadness or feeling overwhelmed is part of being human. Demonstrate how you manage stress and respond to vulnerability calmly.

• **Limit screen time, increase green time:** Play is essential—movement, nature, and unstructured time build resilience, creativity, and connection. Encourage reading, music, and hands-on activities that ground and soothe.

• **Watch, don't dismiss:** Notice even subtle changes in behavior.

• **Be curious, not critical:** Seek to understand the reason behind a child's behavior rather than rushing to correct it.

A collective responsibility:

Children are shaped by the adults, environments, and systems around them. Instead of asking, "What's wrong with this child?" to "What happened to this child, and how can we help?" This Mental Health Awareness Month, let's stop romanticizing resilience and start creating environments where children don't need it just to survive.

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'We are nervous'

Kangana Ranaut lauds 'Operation Sindoor', urges public to pray for Indian armed forces amid conflict

CJ Desk

Actress-turned-politician Kangana Ranaut hailed the Indian Army on Wednesday for the successful 'Operation Sindoor' — an operation carried out to obliterate terrorist camps in Pakistan. While at it, she stated that people are nervous since the country is at war now, but we must trust and pray for our jawans.

While interacting with the media in Delhi, Kangana said, "The country is at war right now, so obviously, we are all very nervous. But our security forces are protecting us, and we all must pray that may God protect them and help them succeed in their missions. We should all pray that the country be safe from all kinds of dangers."

"Humein khatra nahi hai, hum khud khatra hai," she added.

Explaining the meaning behind the name of the mission, the BJP MP shared, "PM Modi has named this mission 'Operation Sindoor', because the husbands of our mothers and daughters were killed right in front of their eyes and they were widowed by the terrorists. Those deaths are now being avenged now."

Earlier in the day, Kangana had saluted the Indian armed forces for targeting and attacking terror camps in Pakistan with precision. "Operation Sindoor: Zero tolerance to terror. The Indian Armed Forces launched a precision mission, Operation Sindoor; 9 terror camps across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir neutralized (sic)," she wrote on X.

Stars salute forces

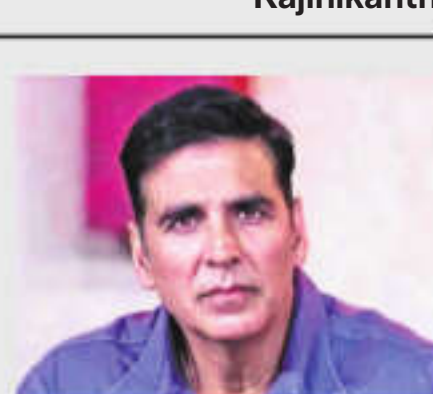
Actors Rajinikanth, Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, Kangana Ranaut, and Allu Arjun praised Indian armed forces for carrying out missile strikes early Wednesday in Pakistan in retaliation against the barbaric terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians. The Indian Army said nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, including Bahawalpur which is a major base of Jaish-e-Mohammad terror outfit, were hit under 'Operation Sindoor'.



"The fighter's fight begins... No stopping until the mission is accomplished! The entire NATION is with you. @PMOIndia @HMOIndia #OperationSindoor JAI HIND" — Rajinikanth



"Saluting our Honourable Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi and our Indian forces. India stands tall and strong. Jai Hind!" — Ajay Devgn



"Jai Hind. Jai Mahakaal" — Akshay Kumar



"Respect and gratitude to our armed forces" — Kajol

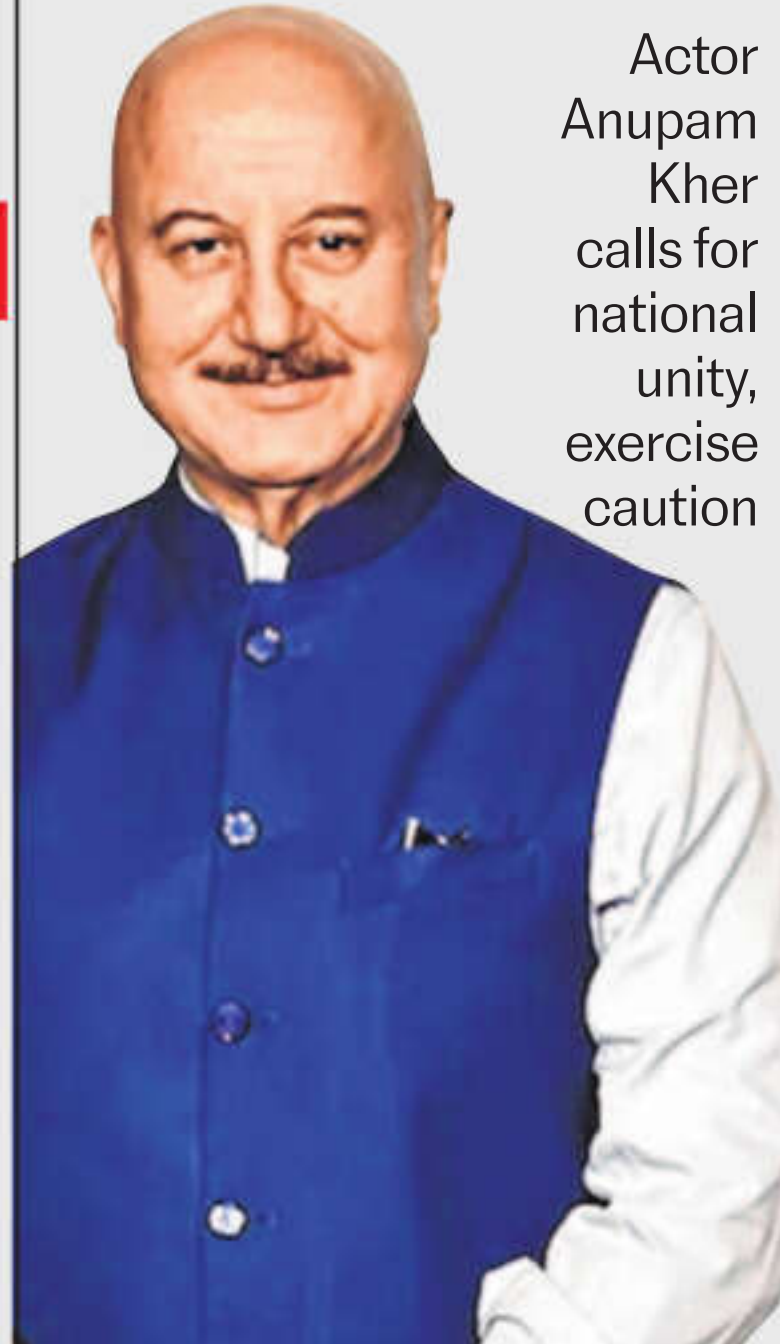


"May justice be served. Jai Hind #OperationSindoor" — Allu Arjun



"Jai Hind, Jai Sena #OperationSindoor" — Vicky Kaushal

India must stay united



Actor Anupam Kher calls for national unity, exercise caution

CJ Desk

As the nation proceeds to next steps in the ongoing escalations, and possibly open diplomatic channels against its notorious neighbour Pakistan, veteran actor Anupam Kher has called for national unity, and to exercise caution.

On Wednesday, the actor took to his Instagram, and shared a video in which he spoke to the camera, and urged the countrymen to exercise restraint, and be careful while sharing information on social media.

He said, "Jai Hind, friends. Today, India has taken a decisive step under the leadership of our esteemed Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and with the support of the Indian Army. Our country is a peaceful nation, yet it knows how to retaliate against its citizens and its brave soldiers with fierce terrorist at-

tacks. Those days are gone, when we used to remain silent. But today, India has changed. We all know this. I am making this video as a responsible Indian citizen."

He further mentioned that this action is against terrorism, and is for self-defense and justice. He shared, "In such circumstances, we also have some responsibilities, and it is very important for us to take care of some things. For example, No video, photo or message should be forwarded on social media without inspection. This spreads fear and confusion. No photo should be taken or shared in any army movements, bunkers or sensory places. No emergency services should be blocked. Call 10010102108 only in real emergencies. Stay away from high-risk areas, especially from border areas, until further instructions are received from the government. Only rely on government announcements and verified news sources."

Surbhi slams comparisons with Dhanashree



Rashita Sahni

Surbhi Chandna, who was recently trolled for looking like Dhanashree Verma, hit back at haters as she called them 'jobless' for comparing the two. Major trolling began right after Dhanashree Verma and cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal officially got divorced on March 20, 2025. While netizens kept trolling Dhanashree on her social media pages, some reached Surbhi's account as well and started trolling her.

Surbhi, in an exclusive conversation with *The Free Press Journal*, spoke about it and said, "It's neither her (Dhanashree's) fault that she looks like me if people think this

way, nor is it my fault that I look like her. People are sitting at home and they're jobless, hence they're writing all this. What more do I say on this? There's nothing I can say. You're sort of looking for resemblance and you got it, so what now? People really write weird things and you know what? I've realised one thing, people are sitting at home and they have no work, so they will write whatever they want. They're jobless. That's it. I've nothing more to say."

Earlier, Surbhi had expressed her interest in meeting Dhanashree and discussing their resemblance. She had even joked about seven people in the world having similar faces and how she has found one in Dhanashree.



Scan QR code to watch the full interview on FPJ's YouTube channel

SRK's stylish thanks

Shah Rukh Khan thanks Sabyasachi Mukherjee and his team for introducing him to the Met Gala

CJ Desk

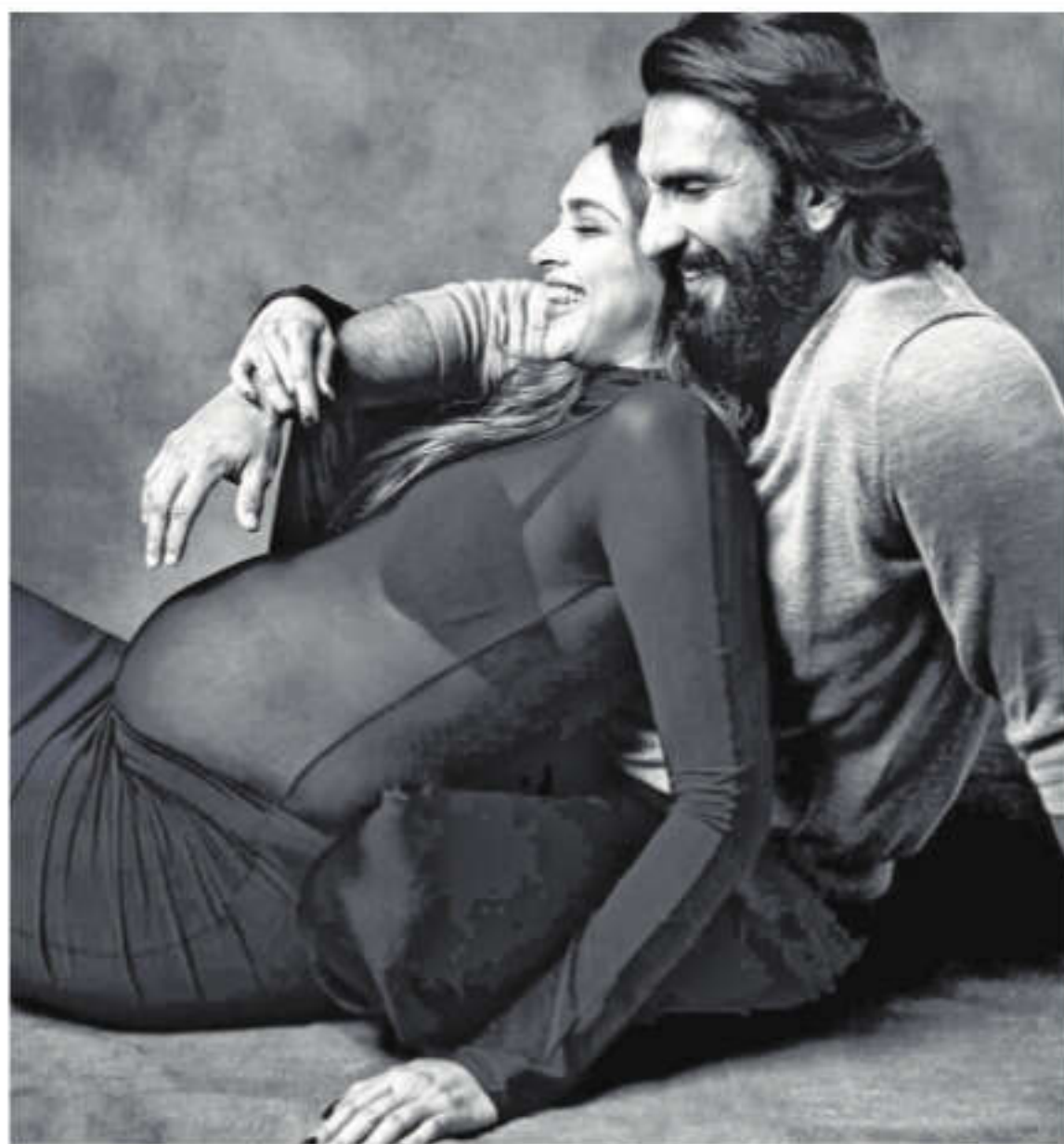
Shah Rukh Khan has become the talk of the town because of his debut at Met Gala 2025.

The actor's look at the red carpet surely stole the show, and his fans are going gaga over it. On Tuesday, SRK took to Instagram to share some pictures from a photo-shoot that he did at Met Gala, and in the caption he thanked designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee and his team.

SRK in the caption wrote, "Thx @sabyasachiofficial & ur whole team for introducing me to the Met Gala. It's not my 'space' but u made me feel so comfortable...becos u, like me, believe...Style & Fashion...is just being who you are. And all of u made me feel like a 'K' (sic)"

SRK's outfit at Met Gala 2025

The *Jawan* actor wore an all-black suit along with high-waist trousers, a black silk shirt, and a tailcoat. He wore multiple rings and necklaces, and one of them had an oversized K pendant which of course was referring to his tag of King Khan. While Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt had attended Met Gala earlier, Shah Rukh Khan is one of the first Indian male actor to attend the event. Well, this year, along with him Priyanka, Diljit Dosanjh, and Kiara Advani also walked the red carpet at the Met Gala. Clearly, Indian celebs stole the show at an international event.



Deepika on motherhood

CJ Desk

Deepika Padukone is currently enjoying motherhood after welcoming her baby daughter, Dua Padukone Singh, on September 8, 2024. The actress, who stepped away from work after announcing her pregnancy in February, recently revealed that her pregnancy journey was 'complicated.'

In an interview with Marie Claire, Deepika shared, "I went through a lot in the eight, nine months of being pregnant and delivery." Deepika revealed that she and Ranveer Singh took their time in choosing a name for their baby

girl, ensuring they didn't settle for anything that didn't feel right for her. The actress added, "I think what was more important for us was to first hold the baby in our arms, allow her to sort of see this new world she's come into, allow her personality to start developing a little bit."

Deepika shared that she found inspiration for her daughter's name through poetry and music. She shared, "It felt like a beautiful summary of what she means to us and why she means what she means to us." Recalling the moment, Deepika shared how she texted Ranveer in middle of the night while he was on set, asking, 'Dua?' He replied with a simple 'yes', and that was it.

Inside KJo's battle

Filmmaker opens up about battling dysmorphia, reveals reason behind rapid weight loss

CJ Desk

Filmmaker Karan Johar has always been vocal about his body image issues, and in a new podcast, he has opened up about battling body dysmorphia. He revealed that he feels disgusted to look at his body in the mirror, and that it is more than just feeling uncomfortable in one's body.

During his appearance on Raj Shamani's podcast, KJo shared, "I have body dysmorphia. It is a condition when you just cannot look at yourself in the mirror without any clothes on. It is when you are ashamed of your body and you are awkward without clothes on. I am still not okay with looking at my body and feeling good about it."

When he was asked about the difference between being mildly uncomfortable in one's body and having body dysmorphia, Karan explained, "You are uncomfortable, yes. But you don't feel disgusted looking at your body. That is body dysmorphia. *Mujhe ghinn aati hai. Main apne aap ko dekh hi nahi sakta bina kapdo ke.* Now it is better but I am still not completely okay with it."

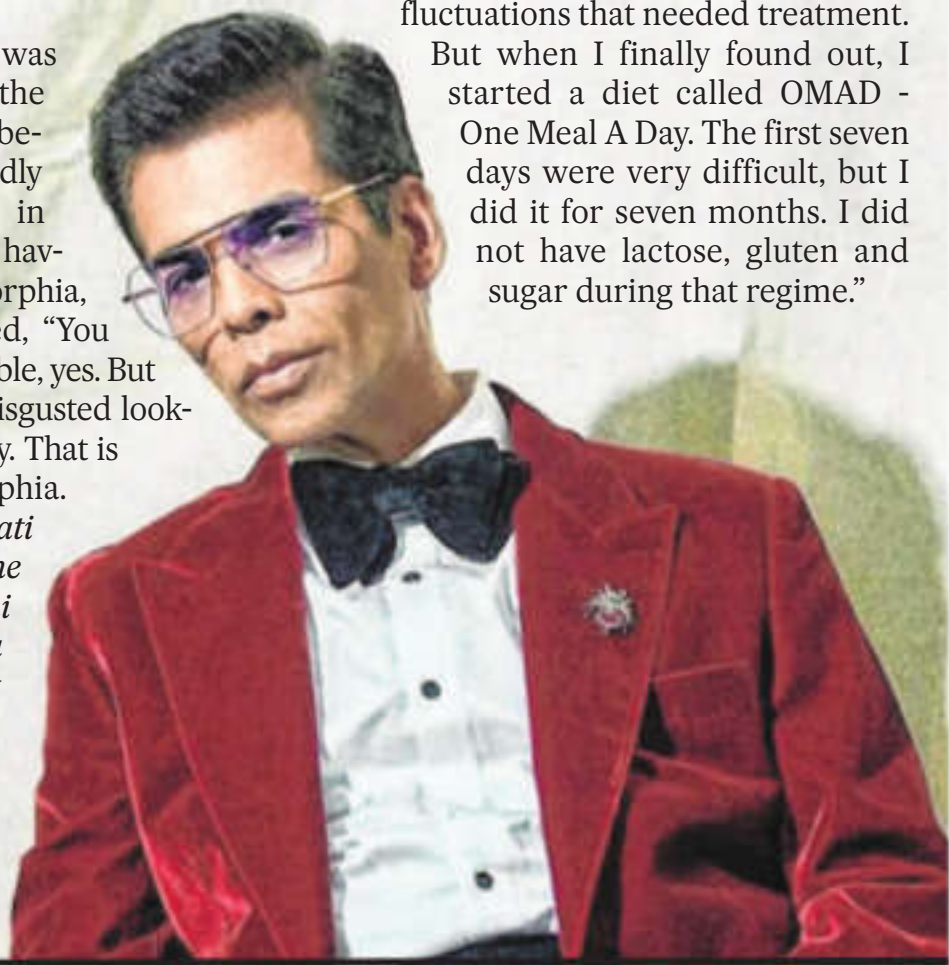
He added that he would

wear oversized clothes to hide his body, because he was "ashamed" of it.

Karan Johar's weight loss method

KJo also broke his silence on his drastic physical transformation, which made people wonder if was using drugs like oземпic to lose weight. The Dharma head honcho shared, "I have always been battling the bulge. I have done 1000 diets, 500 workouts, everything that was available to combat it. Years later, I did my blood works and found out that I had certain thyroid issues and other problems that I needed to fix, and I've now been working on correcting them."

He went on to say, "For 15-20 years, I had no idea that I had certain thyroid fluctuations that needed treatment. But when I finally found out, I started a diet called OMAD - One Meal A Day. The first seven days were very difficult, but I did it for seven months. I did not have lactose, gluten and sugar during that regime."



Allu Arjun and Aamir Khan's recent meeting in Mumbai sparks speculation about a potential collaboration for upcoming projects

Arjun-Aamir collaboration?

CJ Desk

Allu Arjun was in Mumbai a few days ago to attend WAVES 2025. A picture of him with Aamir Khan has gone viral on social media, and netizens are wondering whether the Bollywood star and the Icon star are all set to collaborate for a project. A netizen tweeted, "Guest

appearance in #AA22??" Another netizen thought that maybe Allu Arjun met Aamir for the latter's project *Mahabharat*, he tweeted, "*Mahabharat gurunchi anukunta* (I think about the *Mahabharat*)."

One more X user wrote, "What is cooking between Tollywood Icon Star #AlluArjun and bollywood star #AamirKhan as both met at Aamir residence.. Any collaboration on cards? What do you think?"

Aamir's ambitious project Mahabharat

A few days ago, in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India, when Aamir was asked about his ambition, the 60-year-old actor said, "I always believe in stories and I have always loved stories. So, my ambition is to continue to tell stories which touch our hearts. The one other ambition that I have which I am hoping to start work on this year, is working on the *Mahabharat*. That's one of my biggest ambitions. So, fingers crossed, hoping to start this year. It will take a while because just the writing process will take a few years."



Aamir's tamil debut

Aamir is all set to make his Tamil debut with the film *Coolie*. The movie stars Rajinikanth in the lead role and has Aamir has a cameo in the movie. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, it also features Nagarjuna, Upendra, Soubin Shahir, Sathyaraj, and Shruti Haasan. The movie is slated to release on August 14, 2025. It will clash with Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR, and Kiara Advani starrer *War 2*.

Nikita Dutta reflects on her childhood shaped by rules and restrictions

Grounded by discipline

FIANS

Actress Nikita Dutta opened up about her formative years, sharing that her childhood was marked by a strong sense of discipline, structure, and routine. Raised in an environment where rules and responsibilities took precedence, she credited this upbringing for instilling values of order and perseverance-traits that continue to influence her personal and professional life.

At a recent event, Nikita also shared an interesting revelation about her early ambitions-she once wanted to appear for the UPSC exams and pursue a career in the civil services. Long before she stepped into the world of showbiz, the actress envisioned herself serving the nation as a civil servant, reflecting the disciplined upbringing that shaped her early years.

Speaking about her career journey, the *Kabir Singh* actress stated, "I come from an Army family-everyone around me has served in the forces in some capacity. Naturally, growing up in that disciplined environment, I too was inclined towards a structured path. At one point, I even wanted to appear for the UPSC exams and pursue civil services. For someone like me, who has now chosen acting as a profession, the shift feels huge." "We grew up with so many rules, routines, and restrictions-everything was about discipline, duty, and order. Choosing a career in the creative arts, where unpredictability is the norm, was a complete departure from what I was used to. But somewhere, I think that grounding has helped me stay focused and resilient in an industry that often feels chaotic," Dutta added.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Nikita Dutta made her acting debut in 2014 with the romantic drama *Lekar Hum Deewana Dil*. She has appeared in films such as *Gold*, *Kabir Singh*, *The Big Bull*, and *Khakee: The Bihar Chapter*.

Most recently, she featured in the heist action thriller *Jewel Thief - The Heist Begins*. Directed by Kookie Gulati and Robbie Grewal, the film also starred Saif Ali Khan, Jaideep Ahlawat, and Kunal Kapoor. It premiered on Netflix on April 25, 2025.



Trailer for Very Parivarik Season 2 is out now

CJ Desk

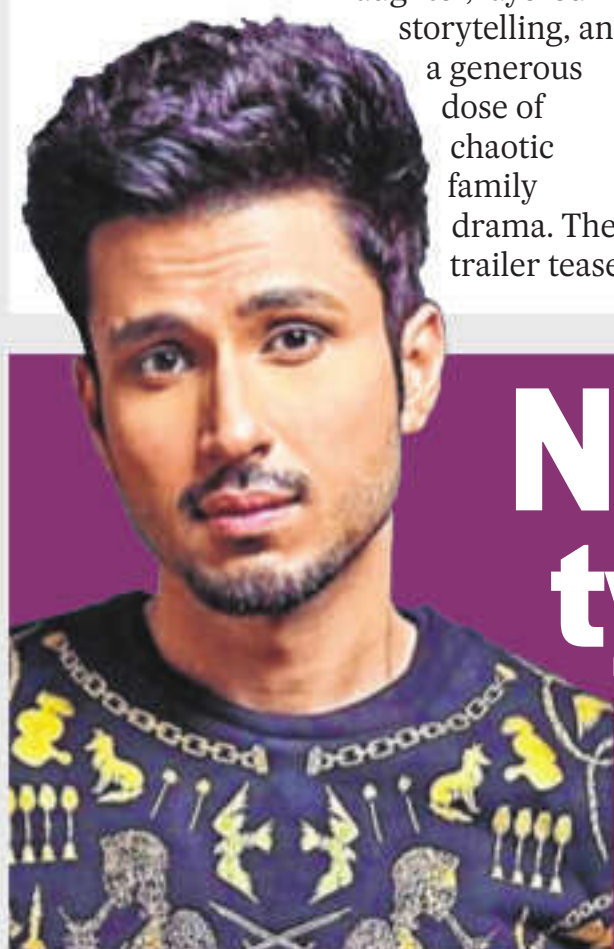
The Viral Fever (TVF), has officially released the trailer for Season 2 of its hit family comedy series, *Very Parivarik*. The new season is set to premiere on May 9, with fresh episodes dropping weekly.

After the success of its debut season, *Very Parivarik* returns with more laughter, layered storytelling, and a generous dose of chaotic family drama. The trailer teases

a meta-narrative where Shelly's life becomes a show within the show, continuing the heartfelt and humorous tone that struck a chord with audiences the first time around.

Speaking about the upcoming season, Vaibhav Bundhoo, creator and director; said, "Season 2 of *Very Parivarik* has a lot more jokes than *The Godfather* (Part III) and *Schindler's List* combined. I've been told to get therapy, but instead, I made this show. Please enjoy the trailer; it's entirely organic and sourced from local farmers."

The trailer is now live on TVF's official YouTube channel, inviting viewers to reunite with their favorite dysfunctional family — now back on a bigger, bolder, and funnier platform.



No more typecast

Amol Parashar opens up about being typecast for playing 'cute' and 'likeable' roles

CJ Desk

Actor Amol Parashar recently discussed how he was often typecast in roles that portrayed him as "cute" or "likeable." Parashar revealed that while many of the roles offered to him leaned towards this familiar image, he made a conscious effort to expand his range and take on more diverse, complex characters that break away from the stereotype.

Explaining his decision to embrace diversity in his roles, Parashar said, "Yes, those kinds of roles-sweet or likeable-were definitely coming my way quite often. I'd say a large majority of the roles offered were like that. But the work I've actually done hasn't always followed that trend." "Sometimes, audiences remember you for roles that are more visible or popular. For

example, the show I did with TVF ran for three seasons, so that stays with people. But then there's *Chitwan*, and *Sardar Udham*, in which the words 'cute' or 'likeable' don't even apply. Those were completely different genres and characters-like a legendary historical figure, a DJ, or even a delivery boy. I've tried to bring variety to the roles I choose," he explained.

Speaking about his latest project, *Gram Chikitsa*, Amol shared, "As an actor, I always look for strong stories and well-written characters. That was the first draw. Secondly, the creative team-The Viral Fever (TVF) and Prime Video-are known for exceptional storytelling. The concept, the script, and the team behind the project were all deeply appealing. TVF has been creating some of the best content in the country for years. So, for me, there was no reason to say no to this show."



'It is a very dark place'

Bigg Boss 17 fame Soniya Bansal quits acting after 5 films

CJ Desk

Actress Soniya Bansal, who shot to fame with her participation in *Bigg Boss 17*, has decided to quit acting after working in five films. She stated that while she has the work and money, she was lacking peace in her life, and she now wants to be a life coach and guide people. In an interaction with ETimes, Soniya shared, "We are so much into doing everything for others that we forget ourselves. I realised I don't even know what my true purpose is anymore. In this race to be perfect, to stay relevant, and to earn more, I lost myself."

"Money, fame, popularity I had it all. But what I didn't have was peace. And what will you do with the money if you're not at peace? You may have everything externally, but if you're empty inside, it's a very dark place to be," she added. Opening up why she now wishes to be a life coach and spiritual healer, the actress stated, "I want to deeply study what I really want in life. This industry gave me recognition, but it didn't give me stillness. It didn't allow me to breathe. I don't want to pretend anymore. I want to live authentically, for myself and be a Life Coach and Spiritual Healer."

"You never know when your life will change. You never know when death might knock. And if we haven't lived truthfully by then, what's the point of this entire journey?" she quipped.



Unfiltered and furious

CJ Desk

Hina Khan on Tuesday took to Instagram to share her views on the sexual assault and murder that took place in Nishat, Srinagar, in Kashmir. The actress shared three Instagram stories in which she discussed about things like distinguish between rape and sexual assault, blaming alcohol for crimes, and more. She also once again posted about the Pahalgam attack in one of her stories.

The *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai* actress shared a long note which read, "Can someone for gods sake teach these Morons the Difference between sexual assault and rape.. A Rape is a Rape. A Murder is a Murder. A Sexual Assault may differ in description but it's just the Precursor of Rape. It only means that the perpetrators COULD NOT do it rather than DID NOT do it. A Rapist blames everything else than Himself. Don't act like that Criminal. Don't use Alcohol to give the Criminal a 'Free Get

Hina Khan condemns sexual assault and murder in Srinagar, urging society to stop justifying crimes and blaming alcohol or circumstances

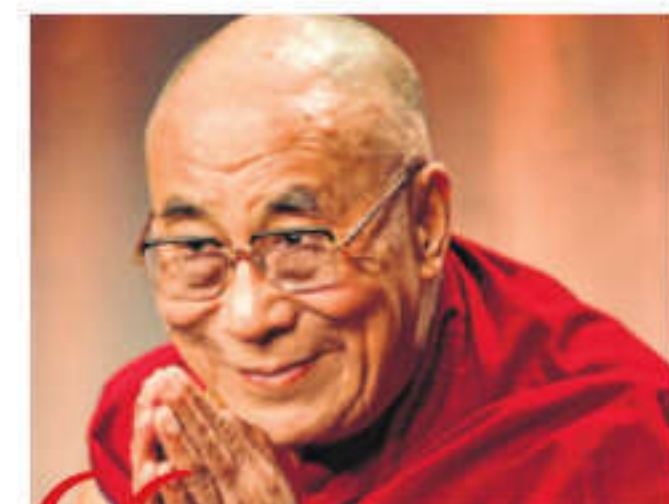
Away Card'. Do not Justify Sexual Assault. Not in the name of Religion, Community, Geography or Attire. These Demons Exist everywhere, in every community, every religion..lurking for Opportunity. Alcohol causes many things but it doesn't make a Good Man a Rapist! Stop Alcohol Blaming and Escapism. Good Men can Handle Alcohol just as they Handle Superior Physical Power compared to a Woman, they use it to Protect Women. A Rapist is not Less than a Killer. He's More. Nothing justifies his actions. it's high time we call out what's happened without mincing words just because it's done by a Kashmiri Muslim and blame Alcohol for your so called Agenda (sic)."



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Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions

- DALAI LAMA

CLIMATE CHANGE

Richest 10% bigger villains than poorest 50%

Ten per cent of the world's richest individuals have a higher carbon footprint than the poorest 50 per cent, leading to climate extremes such as heat waves and droughts, according to a study on Wednesday. The study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, that the world's wealthiest 10 per cent are responsible for two-thirds of observed global warming since 1990. "Our study shows that extreme climate impacts are not just the result of abstract global emissions, instead we can directly link them to our lifestyle and investment choices, which in turn are linked to wealth," explains lead author Sarah Schongart. "We found that wealthy emitters play a major role in driving climate extremes, which provides strong



support for climate policies that target the reduction of their emissions," she added. An international team of researchers from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Australia assessed the contribution of the highest emitting groups within societies.

The findings showed that the top 1 per cent of the wealthiest individuals globally contributed 26 times the global average to increases in monthly 1-in-100-year heat extremes globally. The research sheds new light on the links between income-based emissions inequality and climate injustice, illustrating how the consumption and investments of wealthy individuals have had disproportionate impacts on extreme weather events.

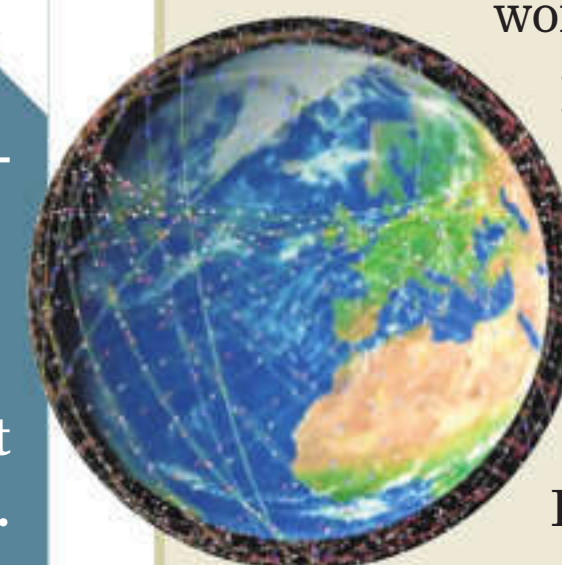
Did you Know?
If everyone had emitted like the bottom 50 per cent of the global population, the world would have seen minimal additional warming since 1990

Together on war on terror

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday asserted that everyone is together in the war on terror. Her comments came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah's urgent meeting of chief ministers, chief secretaries and DGPs of states having borders with Pakistan and Nepal. The meeting was called in the wake of the strikes carried out by the Indian armed forces on terror targets in Pakistan.

Jio adds 21L subscribers

Telecom major Reliance Jio made an addition of about 2.17 million new subscribers out of 2.93 million for the entire industry in the month of March 2025. The telecom company leads with over 74 per cent market share of new subscriber additions. The company is driving industry growth with over 70 per cent market share across categories and continues to strengthen its market leadership further.



2 ANCIENT AYURVEDA TEXTS REVIVED

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), under the Ministry of Ayush, on Wednesday announced it has revived two rare and significant Ayurvedic texts. The manuscripts Dravyaratnakara Nighau and Dravyanamakara Nighau were unveiled during an event organised by the RRAP Central Ayurveda Research Institute in Mumbai. "These texts are not just historical artefacts -- they are living knowledge systems that can transform contemporary healthcare approaches when studied and applied thoughtfully," said Prof. Vd. Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, New Delhi. Acharya emphasised the importance of such revivals in bridging India's ancient wisdom with contemporary research frameworks.

GOVT GREENLIGHTS MUSK'S INTERNET

The government has issued Letter of Intent to Starlink for satcom services, sources said on Wednesday. Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX -- the American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation company founded in 2002 by world's richest man Elon Musk. It provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet worldwide using satellite technology. Sources told PTI that the Department of Telecom (DoT) has now issued Letter of Intent to Starlink. Unlike conventional satellite services that rely on distant geostationary satellites, Starlink utilises the world's largest low earth orbit or LEO constellation (550 km above earth).



I'm closely monitoring the situation & govt is fully prepared to deal with any eventuality

- MANOJ SINHA



LOWER PRICES OF EGGS FIRST

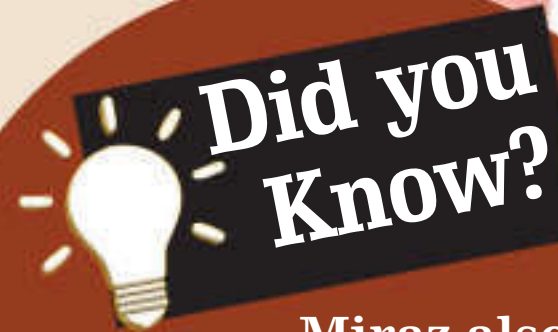
Whoopi Goldberg has spoken out against President Donald Trump's proposal to implement a 100 per cent tariff on foreign-produced movies, calling it a move that would limit the US film industry. According to The Hollywood Reporter, in a recent interview, Goldberg shared her strong disapproval of the plan, which was announced by Trump on his Truth Social platform earlier this week.

"Could you please lower the price of eggs before you start this?" Goldberg said, referencing the ongoing rise in domestic consumer prices as she weighed in on Trump's proposal. 'The Color Purple' actress expressed concern that the tariffs would unnecessarily restrict creative freedom in the film industry and negatively impact filmmakers who often rely on international locations to tell their stories

ICC TEST RANKINGS

Jadeja top all-rounder, Bumrah No. 1 bowler

Star India spinner Ravindra Jadeja remained at the top, whereas Bangladesh cricketer Mehidy Hasan Miraz rose in the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings for all-rounders, as per the ICC official website. Miraz gained one place to move to second overall on the latest rankings for Test all-rounders on the back of his heroics for Bangladesh in their recent Test series against Zimbabwe, with Jadeja's lead at the top now under 100 rating points. The inform Miraz scored 116 runs and claimed 15 wickets across the two Tests and was rewarded on the updated ICC Men's Test Player Rankings by improving to a new career-best rating of 327 points and within 73 rat-



Miraz also rose two places to 24th overall on the updated list for Test bowlers, with Bangladesh teammates Taijul Islam (up to 16th) and Nay-eem Hasan (up to 54th).

ing points of No. 1-ranked Jadeja. India pacer Jasprit Bumrah maintained his lead as the No. 1-ranked Test bowler, with Zimbabwe spinner Vincent Masekese entering the rankings for the first time just outside the top 100 following his impressive display on debut during the Bangladesh Test.

iOS app to simplify text

Google has introduced a new feature called Simplify in its iOS app, designed to help users better understand complex text online. This feature uses Google's Gemini AI model to generate simpler versions of highlighted text. The Simplify feature can be accessed by highlighting any text on a website and tapping the Simplify icon from the menu options. This feature is particularly useful for breaking down technical jargon, such as medical terms, into more digestible language. For example, Simplify can explain terms like "emphysema" and "fibrosis" in a way that's easy to understand. Google's testing showed that people found the simplified versions to be "significantly more helpful than the original complex text."



Schools in J&K border districts shut

Authorities on Wednesday ordered closure of educational institutions in three border districts of Kashmir as a precautionary measure, hours after Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, officials said. The Kashmir University has postponed all its examinations scheduled for the day. Fresh date for the conduct of postponed papers shall be notified separately, a University spokesman said. Cluster University also postponed all examinations scheduled for the day. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, on Wednesday ordered that all educational institutions in Baramulla, and Kupwara districts as well as in Gurez of Bandipora district will remain closed. Authorities have urged the public to remain alert and stay calm, and follow official advisories as a precautionary measure. Some schools around the Srinagar airport have also been closed.



Russia adds 2K seats for Indian med students

Russia continues to be the top choice for Indian students seeking medical education abroad, and Russian universities have a long-standing reputation for providing high-quality medical. Nearly 2,000 additional seats have been added to accommodate the growing number of students keen on pursuing medical courses in Russian universities, Consul General Valerii Khodzhaev of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Chennai said on Wednesday.



day. education worldwide, he said at an event in Chennai. With the number of Indian students taking up medical courses rising every year, Russia has in-

creased the number of seats from 8,000 to 10,000 in 2024, he said. The increase in seats reflects the growing demand for medical education in Russia.



Fearless in unity. Boundless in strength. There's no room for terrorism in this world - **SACHIN TENDULKAR**

KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES

MEDAL HAT-TRICKS FOR HARSHITA, SUHANI

Harshita Jakhar achieved a golden hat-trick at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 cycling events, being held at the Velodrome, Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi. In her debut participation itself, the 18-year-old from Rajasthan has made the KIYG a memorable one for herself. She won the gold on Wednesday in the 2km Individual Pursuit event, recording a time of 02:35.178. The silver medalist - Bhumika of Haryana registered time of 02:41.621. "Since I'm transitioning to the senior event, the competition hasn't been too tough for me to be honest," Harshita, who is a part of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Target Asian Games Group (TAGG) program, told SAI Media. The bronze medal in the 2km Individual Pursuit event, meanwhile, belonged to Suhani Kumari of Bihar. This was incidentally also Suhani's third



Did you Know?

Harshita's cousin brother Aditya meanwhile bagged gold in the 200m boys' sprint event and in the process, clinched his 2nd gold of KIYG 2025. He earlier won the yellow metal in the 1km Time Trial event.

medal in the cycling events - having won silver earlier in the 7.5km Scratch Race as well as a team silver in the girls' sprint. "I have enjoyed playing here. The tournament has been very well organised and I have tried my best in inspiring Bihar to bag more medals, through my feat this time," mentioned the 18-year-old Suhani, currently a trainee of Sports Authority of India National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) Patiala.

Indian archers to play for gold

India's men's and women's teams booked their spots in the compound team finals at the second stage of the Archery World Cup in Shanghai after respective semifinal wins. The men's team featuring ever-consistent Abhishek Verma alongside Ojas Pravin Deotale and Rishabh Yadav narrowly defeated Denmark, in a tight semifinal. The men's team, which topped the qualification leaderboard with 2134, received the first round bye and began their campaign with a 239-232 quarterfinal win over Great Britain. The women's team, which had also received a bye in the opening round, reached the gold medal match by outshooting Great Britain.



Bright start for Kidambi

Star Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth started his campaign on a bright note with a straight game win over as he, along with a host of other youngsters, progressed to the second round of the Taipei Open Super 300 Badminton Tournament in Taipei on Wednesday. World No. 61 Srikanth, who is battling an extended lean patch, dispatched fellow Indian Sankar Subramanian, a 2022 world junior championships silver medalist, to enter the second round. The 32-year-old, a silver-medallist at the 2021 World Championships, will face another Indian Ayush Shetty, a 2023 world junior championships bronze medallist.



IPL TO PROCEED AS PER SCHEDULE

Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, which is close to its business end, will proceed as planned amid the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. There are a number of overseas players and commentators present in India for the IPL, which began on March 22. The cricketing extravaganza, which has 74 matches in its roster of which 56 have already taken place across various venues, concludes on May 25.



BCCI WISHES ALL THE BEST TO ROHIT

Team India skipper Rohit Sharma has formally announced his retirement from Test cricket, drawing the curtain on a remarkable chapter of his international career. Following the announcement, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) extended its gratitude and best wishes to the veteran player. The BCCI posted on their X handle, "Thank you, Captain, End of an era in whites! He will continue to lead India in ODIs. We are proud of you, Hitman."



QUICK NEWS

Satirical take on Hollywood
Streaming service Apple TV+ has greenlit "The Studio", a satirical series exploring the inner workings of Hollywood, for a second season. The renewal comes two weeks ahead of the show's season finale, which is set for May 21. "The Studio" features Seth Rogen as Matt Remick, a movie executive.

Actors praise Indian op
Actors Rajinikanth, Akshay Kumar, Kangana Ranaut, and Allu Arjun praised Indian armed forces for carrying out missile strikes early Wednesday in Pakistan in retaliation against the barbaric terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians. South superstar Rajinikanth praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the success of 'Operation Sindoor

Precision, restraint
Acclaimed filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has praised India's measured and confident response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, commending its precision and restraint from war rhetoric. He stated that Operation Sindoor was a targeted strike against the territories and organizations that supported the perpetrators responsible for the killing of innocent civilians.

Best Podcast added to Golden Globes

Golden Globes 2026 ceremony will be a bit different as a new category has been added to it. The organisers announced a new award category honoring the best podcast of the year, broadening its recognition of creative storytelling. The category will debut at the 83rd Golden Globe Awards, scheduled for January 11, 2026. Organizers said the move reflects the growing influence and reach of podcasts in the entertainment industry. "As the world of entertainment continues to evolve, we are excited to recognize new forms of storytelling," said Helen Hoehne, president of the Golden Globes.





Your (Rohit Sharma) presence and impact will echo in that dressing room forever

- RISHABH PANT



TO CONTINUE PLAYING IN ODIs

Rohit bids goodbye to Test cricket

Rohit Sharma on Wednesday announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect ending all speculations about his future in the longest format and leaving India in the need of a new captain for the upcoming five-match series against England.

The 38-year-old was India's most prolific Test batter in the second half of his career, scoring 4301 runs in 67 Tests with 12 hundreds and 18 half-centuries at an average of 40.57. Having already retired from T20 Internationals after the World Cup last year, Rohit will now only be seen

leading India in the ODI format. "Hello everyone, I would just like to share that I am retiring from Test cricket. It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites. "Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format," he posted on Instagram

with a picture of his Test cap after PTI's newsbreak. Rohit captained India to the World Test Championship final against Australia and had a fairly decent run in the format save the last couple of indifferent series against New Zealand at home and the Border-Gavaskar showdown against Australia earlier this year.

Did you Know?
Rohit endured a particularly difficult run during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy where he had to drop himself from the playing XI owing to poor form

IPL match at Dharamshala gets government nod

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has received clearance from the Indian government to host match between Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Delhi Capitals (DC) match on Thursday of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) in Dharamshala at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium. However, the May 11 match has been shifted from

Dharmshala to Mumbai, and the new date for the match will be updated soon. As Dharamshala is located near the India-Pakistan border, there might be a threat at this venue, so there is a chance that the Punjab-based franchise will play their remaining home matches at a different place. "BCCI gets clearance from the government to host tomorrow's match in Dharamshala, but the May 11 match shifted to Mumbai from Dharmshala, the fresh date for the match will be updated soon," BCCI sources told ANI.



INDIA SEAL PLACE IN ODI TRI-SERIES

Jemimah Rodrigues' smashed a superb 123, while Amanjot Kaur picked 3-59 on her international comeback as India beat South Africa by 23 runs and sealed their spot in the final of women's ODI tri-series at the R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. Pushed into batting first, India were reduced to 50/3 in seven overs. But Jemimah, coming out to bat at number five, stepped up with her variety of sweeps and beautiful shots over extra cover, apart from proactive strike rotation, to hit her second ODI hundred in just 88 balls.



English players want to leave Pak

English players involved in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) want to leave the country following the precision strikes by India during Operation Sindoor in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack in Kashmir, which claimed 26 innocent lives. Hours after the midnight strike by Indian armed forces on terror infrastructures in the country, the Pakistan

Cricket Board on Wednesday vowed to continue holding the remaining matches of the Pakistan Super League. However, the English players in PSL face a decision over whether to remain in the country. Seven England players -- Sam Billings, James Vince, Tom Curran, David Willey, Chris Jordan, Tom Kohler-Cadmore and Luke Wood - are involved in PSL.



'BEST OUT OF WASTE' WORKSHOP @SUMMER CAMP



A multipurpose summer training camp was organized at Government Sandipani Ahilyashram Girls Higher Secondary School No. 2, Indore, where students engaged in a wide range of skill-building activities designed to enhance creativity, fitness, and sportsmanship.

As part of the camp, master trainers Uma Tiwari and Deepika Bagora conducted a special session on creating useful and decorative items from

waste materials. The session aimed to teach students how to recycle and repurpose materials typically discarded as garbage. Using simple examples such as terracotta glasses and other household items, the trainers demonstrated how waste could be transformed into showcase-worthy crafts and practical products.

School principal Deepak Halve stated that the initiative not only promoted creativity but also encouraged environmental awareness

among students. "These workshops help inculcate a sense of responsibility and innovation in our students," he said.

The camp also featured fitness and recreational activities. Yoga instructors Anita Sharma and Khushboo Verma taught students various yoga postures, integrating rhythmic Zumba dance to make fitness both enjoyable and effective.

Additionally, sports instructors Ashok Yadav and Shirish Kalanki

introduced students to the basics and techniques of indoor and outdoor games including badminton, sitoliya, chess, and carrom. Students enthusiastically participated and showed keen interest in learning the rules and strategies of each game.

The summer camp successfully combined learning with fun, offering students a valuable platform to explore new skills, express creativity, and stay active during the holidays.

Finding Ourselves in the Act of Giving



A helping hand, a listening ear-
A gesture small, yet oh so dear.
To be there for another in need
Is a joy that blooms like a seed.
When we give, our hearts feel light,
A warmth that glows, a pure delight.
The smile we bring, the hope we share-
Are treasures rare, beyond compare.
In helping others, we come to find

A deeper peace, a heart aligned.
The joy of giving, love sincere,
A gift for all, both far and near.
So let us lend a hand, a voice, a heart
To those in need-let kindness start.
For in the joy of helping, we'll see
A love that grows in you and me.
HAWRAHROKADIYA
Class 11
MSB educational institute,
Indore



Indore Students Set to Appear for June 2025 Open School Examinations Under 'Ruk Jana Nahi' and 'Aa Laut Chalein' Schemes

Madhya Pradesh State Open School Education Board (MPSOS) will conduct the first phase of examinations for June 2025 beginning from June 2. These exams are particularly significant for thousands of students from Indore who are participating under the 'Ruk Jana Nahi' and 'Aa Laut Chalein' schemes, which provide crucial opportunities for students who have either failed their previous exams or dropped out of school for various reasons.

The number of students enrolled under the 'Ruk Jana Nahi' and 'Aa Laut Chalein' schemes has grown in recent years in Indore. In the previous academic cycle, around 10,000 students from Indore took part in the 'Ruk Jana Nahi' scheme, while hundreds of dropouts enrolled under the 'Aa Laut Chalein' program.

To ensure smooth conduct of the exams, the MPSOS has set up 20 examination centres across Indore.

Examination Schedule and Participation

The exams will be conducted in two shifts. The first shift from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM will cover Class 12 exams, while the second shift from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM will focus on Class 10, 8, and 5 exams. In total, over 10,000 students from Indore are expected to attempt the exams, including candidates enrolled under the 'Ruk Jana Nahi' scheme, the 'Aa Laut Chalein' program, and traditional Open School students.

This year's exam cycle will also see students who had previously been unable to take their exams due to various reasons, including financial constraints, illness, or other personal issues, given a second chance. With over 14,000 students from Indore failing or missing out on their exams last



year, this opportunity is critical for them to continue their education without further delay.

'Ruk Jana Nahi' and 'Aa Laut Chalein' Schemes: Giving Students a Second Chance

The 'Ruk Jana Nahi' scheme, launched in 2016, offers students who have failed their Class 10 or 12 board exams a chance to reappear and pass the exams within the same academic year. By allowing students to retake exams in June and again in December if necessary, this initiative ensures that they do not lose valuable academic time.

The 'Aa Laut Chalein' scheme, designed to reintegrate school dropouts aged 14 to 18, offers stu-

dents the chance to complete their education through the Open School system. This scheme allows students who have left school for various reasons to return and appear for Class 10 and 12 exams, providing them with a much-needed opportunity to continue their studies and catch up with their peers.

Both schemes are part of a broader effort to reduce dropout rates and ensure universal access to education in Madhya Pradesh. In Indore, the schemes have helped numerous students return to the classroom, giving them the tools they need to succeed and progress in their academic careers.

CLASSROOM REFLECTION ON KINDNESS



In a classroom, a thoughtful discussion about the joy of helping others unfolded. The teacher asked the students, "Have you ever helped someone and felt the joy of helping them?"

Student 1 shared a heartwarming experience: "Yes, teacher. There were four puppies near my home. I saw they were shivering from the cold, so my friends and I built them a little house to protect them from the cold and rain."

Student 2 replied, "I haven't had the chance to help anyone yet, but I've seen my father helping poor people by giving them food and clothes. It made me really happy to see their faces light up with joy."



Student 3 added, "One of my classmates forgot to bring his tiffin box, and during recess, I saw he was very hungry. I offered to share my lunch with him, and he was so happy." The teacher nodded with pride, asking, "Did you all feel the joy of helping others then?" The students responded in unison, "Yes, teacher!"

The teacher then shared an important lesson: "Helping others can not only bring joy but also help you connect with people and build strong support networks. It's a blessing that teaches you to be a great person."

MONIT SONI, Class 4 - A
New Digamber Public School, Indore